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New Hampshire 1

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Report of a Committee to whom was referred sundry papers relative to New Hampshire Grants.

The Committee to whom was referred the report of a committee on certain letters and papers relative to the people inhabiting the District of Country commonly known by the name of the New Hampshire Grants do report the following resolution to be adopted by congress.

Congress having resolved on the seventh day of August last that in case they should recognize the independence of the people of Vermont, they would consider all the lands belonging to New Hampshire and New York respectively lying without the limits of Vermont aforesaid as coming within the mutual guarantee of territory contained in the articles of confederation; and that the United States will guarantee such lands and the jurisdiction over the same against any claims or encroachments from the inhabitants of Vermont aforesaid.

And Congress having on the twentieth day of the same month required (as an indispensable preliminary to the recognition of the independence of the people inhabiting the territory aforesaid and their admission into the federal union) the explicit relinquishment of all claims of lands or jurisdiction on the east side of the west bank of Connecticut River & on the west side of a line beginning at the north west corner of the State of Massachusetts, thence running twenty miles east of Hudson River so far as the river runs northerly in its general course, thence by the west bounds of the

granted by the late Government of New Hampshire to the river running from the south bay to Lake Champlain; thence along the said river to Lake Champlain; thence along the waters of Lake Champlain to the latitude of forty five degrees north excepting a neck of land between Missiskoy bay and the waters of Lake Champlain.

And the people inhabiting the territory aforesaid not having as yet made the relinquishment aforesaid as above required and attempting since the date of the above recitation to extend and establish their jurisdiction over part of the lands guaranteed to the State of New York and New-Hampshire as aforesaid; and it being indispensably necessary to bring all disputes respecting the jurisdiction of the people residing within the territory aforesaid to a speedy issue.

Resolved, That the District of territory comprehended hereby shall be known by the name of the New Hampshire Grants by which name it may be called & and shall be bounded westward by a line beginning at the northwest corner of the State of Massachusetts, thence running northward twenty miles east of Hudsons River so far as the said River runs northerly in its general course; thence to the west boundary line of the townships granted by the late Government of New-Hampshire; thence northward along the said west boundary line to the river running from South Bay to Lake Champlain; thence along the said river to Lake Champlain, thence along the waters of Lake Champlain to latitude forty five degrees north including a neck of land between

Missiskoy

Miniskoy Bay and the waters of Lake Champlain thence it shall be bounded north by latitude forty five degrees north and eastward by the west bank of Connecticut River, from forty five degrees north to the northern boundary line of the State of Massachusetts and southward by the said northern boundary of the State of Massachusetts from the said west bank of Connecticut River to the northwest corner of Massachusetts aforementioned;

Resolved That in case the inhabitants residing within the limits aforesaid within one calendar month from the delivery of a certified copy of this resolution by the commissioners herein after mentioned; to Thomas Chittenden Esqr. of the town of Bennington within the limits aforesaid or from the time of said commissioners leaving said certified copy at the usual place of residence of the said Thomas Chittenden Esqr. shall by some authenticated act recognize the last above described boundaries to be the limits and extent of their claims both of jurisdiction and territory and shall accede to the articles of confederation and perpetual union between the States of New Hampshire, Massachusetts Rhode Island & Providence Plantations, Connecticut, Newyork, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware Maryland, Virginia North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia as agreed to in Congress on the fifteenth day of November 1777, and shall thereupon elect out of their delegates on their behalf with full powers instructions and positive orders immediately to repair to Congress and to sign the said articles of confederation and afterwards to represent them in the United States in Congress assembled, their said delegates shall be

be admitted to sign the same, and thereupon the inhabitants of the aforesaid described district shall be acknowledged a free sovereign and independent state, by whatsoever name they shall choose to be called, and shall be considered as a component part of the federal Union and entitled to the advantages thereof.

Resolved That in case the said inhabitants within the above described District do not desist from attempting to exercise jurisdiction over the lands granted to New Hampshire and New York as aforesaid and shall not within the time limited as aforesaid comply with the terms specified in the foregoing resolutions, congress will consider such neglect or refusal as a manifest indication of designs hostile to these United States.

And that all the provisions and explications of the said inchoate grants heretofore made for admission into the federal union were fallacious and delusive; and that thereupon the forces of those states shall be employed against the said inchoate grants within the district aforesaid accordingly. And congress will consider all the lands within said territory to the eastward of a line drawn along the summit of a ridge of mountains or height of land extending from south to north throughout the said territory between Connecticut River on the east and Hudson River and Lake Champlain on the west as guaranteed to New Hampshire under the articles of confederation; and all the lands within said territory to the westward of said line as guaranteed to New York under the articles of confederation

provided.

provided always that Congress will consider any other partition which shall hereafter by an agreement between the Legislatures of New Hampshire and New York be made between their respective States concerning the territory aforesaid as guaranteed to them according to such agreement; saving in either case all rights accruing to the States of Massachusetts or any other State under the articles of confederation aforesaid. and provided always that for the more effectually quieting the minds of the inhabitants aforesaid the said States of New Hampshire and New York respectively shall pass acts of indemnity and oblivion in favor of all such persons as have at any time previous to the passing such acts acted under the authority of Vermont, so called, in any manner whatsoever upon such persons submitting to the jurisdiction of said States respectively. and provided always the said States of New York and New Hampshire respectively do pass acts confirming and establishing the titles of all persons whatever to such lands as they do now actually occupy and possess within the limits of the district aforesaid under whatever title the same may be held either from New York New Hampshire or Vermont so called; and also for confirming and establishing the titles of all persons whatever to such lands within the district aforesaid as they may be entitled to under grants from New York New-Hampshire or Vermont, so called, according to the priority of such grants in point of time excepting in such cases where the lands are in the actual occupancy and possession of the claimants as

mentioned

mentioned in the proviso aforesaid. But inasmuch as some persons claiming in right of grants made under the authority of the district or territory called Vermont and not actually occupying the same may be deprived thereof by the interference of other prior grants.

Resolved That in case the partition aforesaid shall take place any person claiming and deprived as aforesaid, his or her assignee or representation shall receive full compensation in lands or otherwise to be provided by Congress.

Resolved That it be and it is hereby earnestly recommended to the States of New Hampshire and New York respectively to pass acts of oblivion and indemnity in favor of all such persons residing without the limits above described who shall have heretofore taken part with the inhabitants residing within the same against the Governments of either of those States upon such persons quietly and peaceably submitting themselves to the Government and jurisdiction of such State respectively to which they belong.

Resolved That in case of the neglect or refusal of the inhabitants residing within the district aforesaid to comply with the terms prescribed in the resolutions aforesaid, that the commander in Chief of the armies of these United States do without delay or further order carry those resolutions as far as they respect this department into full execution.

Resolved That a commission be appointed on the part of these United States whose duty it shall be immediately to repair to the district aforesaid

256:4

aforesaid and deliver a certified copy of these resolutions to Thomas Chittenden Esq. of the town of Pennington aforesaid or leave such copy at his usual place of residence and also to enforce on the inhabitants of the said district the necessity of their complying without delay with the terms above prescribed by Congress or submitting themselves peaceably to the jurisdiction of the States of New Hampshire and Newyork agreeable to the above resolutions.

Extract of Journals of Congress.

In Congress 7th April 1777.

A Letter of the 20th of January, and one of the 1st of March last from the Convention of the State of Newyork, with an extract from the minutes of the Committee of Safety of said State elected January 20th 1777, were received and read.

Ordered that they lie on the Table.

Extract from the Journals of Congress

William H. Houston D. Sec'y

In Congress 8th April 1777.

A declaration and petition from sundry inhabitants of the Newhampshire Grants was received and read;

Ordered that it lie on the Table.

Extract from the Journals of Congress

William H. Houston D. Sec'y.

Letter from Ira Allen to Elisha Bartlett

Exeter December 29th 1781 256

Sir, As it is expected on all sides that both New Hampshire and Vermont are willing to submit to Congress the settlement of the dispute between the respective States, and as the Legislature of Vermont are not possessed of the authority of New Hampshire respecting them matters to Congress, have to request a copy of said act or acts together with a copy of the resolution of the Legislature on the proposals of the Legislature of Vermont in October last, that I may lay them before the Legislature of Vermont at their session in January next thereby to facilitate a settlement at Congress.

I am Sir with due respect

Your humble servant

The Honorable
Elisha Bartlett
President

Ira Allen

Letter from Roger Enos & Ira Allen to Elisha Bartlett

Peeter December 29th 1781. 256:7

Sir, You will herewith receive a duplicate of our Commission to attend the General Court of New Hampshire and have to wish that nothwithstanding one of our Colleagues Wm Paige Esqr. being confined in Jail contrary as we conceive to the Laws of States or nations, We are so desirous of an accommodation, we are ready to enter on the business of our mission,

We are with sentiments of esteem

Your humble Servants

Roger Enos

Ira Allen

The Honorable

Elisha Bartlett Esq.

President &c.

Report of Comtee on Vermont affairs.

256

The Committee beg leave to report that
the jurisdiction of
this State ought to lay claims to, the whole
of the New Hampshire Grants, so called,
lying to the west of Connecticut River
setting forth the right this State has to
the same adjoining and conceiving new-
ville's that if the Honorable Continental
Congress shall allow the said Grants to
the west of said Connecticut river to be
a separate State as now claimed by
force of the inhabitants thereof by
the name of Vermont, that in such
case this State of New Hampshire,
will acquiesce therein, and that this
State ought exercise jurisdiction as
far west as the western bank of Con-
necticut river and no further until
the dispute is settled by Congress.
By order of the Majority of
the Committee,

Joseph Bartlett, Chairman.

2 March 1779

Sent Mr. Weare

Letter from Joseph Fay to Meshech Weare

Sec 12 December 1780 Boston 3rd Feby. 1781.— 25

Sir, Herewith your Excellency will receive a letter from Governor Chittenden which I intended to have had the honor of delivering in person, but as I am informed your Assembly are not sitting at this time, Earnestly request your Excellency to take the earliest opportunity to communicate them for their consideration; and on any determinations thereon, must beg your Excellency to transmit their doings to Governor Chittenden, which will be acknowledged as a favor by your Excellency's

Very Obedient Humble Servt,

Joseph Fay.

His Excellency
Meshech Weare Esq.

Letter from Thos. Chittenden to Herbert Aprece.

256.1

State of Vermont Sec 3 Feb. 1781

In Council Bennington Decr. 12th. 1780

Sir, Inclosed I transmit your Excellency a copy of my letter to Congress of the 25th. of July last, which together with this I request may be laid before the Legislature of the State over whom you presside for their perusal and consideration.

The arguments and representations therein exhibited, are equally applicable for the consideration of the several Legislatures of the United States respectively.

Many and great are the evils which Vermont labors under, Congress claiming a jurisdiction over them, three of the United States claiming their territory in whole or in part, and Vermont at the same time a frontier in part to those very States, and exposed to British invasions, who being possessed of the lakes, can suddenly bring their whole force into this State, which beyond dispute will be their object next campaign (unless some immediate measures are adopted to prevent it) as they have always heretofore destroyed the frontier settlements of the State of New York. In a word, their force will undoubtedly be so great that it will be out of the power of this State to form magazines, and support a body of troops sufficient to withstand them, and the consequence must inevitably be either, That the inhabitants

of this State be sacrificed, or 2ndly, be obliged to retire into the interior parts of the United States for safety, or 3rdly be under the disagreeable necessity of making the best terms with the British that may be in their power.

Nearly the same would be the condition of either of the United States, seperately considered from their union (as they would be unable to withstand the British power) which may consequently serve to evince that it is out of the power of Vermont to be further serviceable to them, unless they are admitted into the Union.

This State are of opinion that it is high time the United Letters espousement from the several States now in union, whether or the connection of the present war, the treaty, without a reconciliation enjoy their irreligious reliance, or whether she is only struggling in a bloody war, to establish neighboring States in their independence, to overthrow or swallow up her own, and destroy her citizens of their limited estates.

I do therefore in behalf of this State demand your Legislature that they relinquish their claims to jurisdiction over any, and every part of this State; and request them to joine in a solid union with Vermont against the British forces which invade the American States.

I have the honor to be

with

with sentiments of respect and
esteem Your Excellency's
very humble Servant
Thos. Chittenden

P.S. I would recommend to your Excellency's favorable notice Mayo Fay the bearer who is a gentleman in whom the highest confidence may be put for any further particulars of intelligence.

T. C

His Excellency
Meshech Weare Esq.
President of the Council
of the State of New Hampshire.

Votes of Assembly of Vermont, to wit

Windsor October 21st. 1778. 256:12

Assembly met according to adjournment,

The following questions were proposed and answered as herein stated, viz,

Question 1st. Whether the Counties of this State should remain as they were established by this Assembly at their Session in March last. Yeas 35, Nays 26.

Question 2nd. Whether the towns east of the river included in the Union with this State, should be included in the County of Cornwall. Yeas 28, Nays 33.

Question 3rd. Whether the towns on the east side of Connecticut river, who are included by union with this State, shall be erected into a distinct County by themselves. Yeas 28, Nays 33.

Thos. Chittenden to Meshech Weare

State of Vermont

Windsor 23rd Oct. 1778.

Sir, I am directed by the Council now sitting, to acquaint your Honor that they have had under consideration, the subject of your letter to me dated the twenty second day of August last, whereupon they have Resolved that no additional exercise of jurisdiction or authority be had (by this State) east of Connecticut river for the time being which resolution, the members who appeared to represent those sixteen towns east of the said river, said to be united to this state, have entered their dissent to said resolution on the minutes of the House, and withdrawn, under which circumstance, they can have no pretensions to any claim of protection from this State, who are so far from a disposition to interfere on the rights of New Hampshire as to gratefully acknowledge their generous and timely assistance at the important battle of Bennington, by which means the infant State was preserved.

The Assembly of this State have appointed his Honor, Ira Allen Esq. to wait on your Honor and Council with the express who will doubtless be able to give any further satisfaction in the premises.

I am Sir with due respect

Your most obedient humble Servt.

Thos. Chittenden

Honble. Meshech Weare Esq.

Letter from Gen. Schuyler.

256:1

Albany June 11th. 1777.

Sir, Before I left Albany to go to Philadelphia I ordered the D. Quarter Master General in this department to provide a quantity of arms for the use of the artificers, [illegible] &c. in this department which are very numerous. He informs me that the inhabitants Henry Van Rensselaer Esqr. to purchase a quantity in the eastern States, which he did, but that the new provincial Congress bringing it up by a resolution of both Houses of your State, passed on the ninth day of April last, a copy whereof he delivered me. — As the service will eventually suffer if we must have from them the quantity in question is not immediately provided, I must beg the favor of your intervention — Perhaps the reasons on which the resolutions of both Houses were founded now no longer exists, and that not only that arms may be permitted to come to this place, but any other quantity he may be able to purchase. — Mr. Rensselaer is the bearer of this, and will beg your help for the purpose,

We have nothing new in this quarter. All is quiet at Tyconderoga, and the troops in great good health and spirits.

I am Sir, Respectfully

Your most obedient

Humble Servant

Ph. Schuyler.

The President of the State of New Hampshire.

Vermont Resolve 12th Feb. 1779.

25b:15

State of Vermont

Bennington Friday 12th Febg. 1779

The General Assembly resumed the consideration of the union between this State and sixteen towns east of Connecticut river and the instruction of the freemen of this State to their representatives, Relative to the said union being read it appearing they were severally instructed to recede from said union

Thereupon voted and resolved That Mr. Hibbert and Mr. Wells be a committee to join one or more from the Council to prepare a draught for dissolving the said union and report thereon to the House — From the Council the Honorable Jonas Fay Esqr.

February 13th. The committee appointed for the purpose brought in their draught relative to dissolving the said union which is as follows, viz.

Whereas in consequence of a representation made to the General Assembly of this State at their Session at Windsor in March 1778. by a Committee consisting of seven persons inhabiting several towns lying contiguous to the east side of Connecticut river that a number of inhabited towns east of said river were then unconnected with any State in regard to their internal police and on said Committee's publication to the General Assembly that the said towns might be admitted into union with this State, order

orders were issued by the Assembly to the representatives constituents for instructions in the premises,

And Whereas in consequence of such instructions, the representatives of said constituents (when met at their adjourned session at Bennington the eleventh day of June last) did receive into union with said State sixteen towns east of said connecticut river and grant leave for other towns to unite (if they should chuse),

And whereas a dispute has arisen in respect to the right New Hampshire have to exercise jurisdiction over those sixteen towns as claimed in a letter to his Excellency Thomas Chittenden Esqr. by Meshech Weare Esqr. President of the Honorable the Council of New Hampshire dated August 22nd. 1778.

And whereas the General assembly of this State did at their Session at Windsor in October last agree on certain methods (contained contained in a report of the Grand Committee of both Houses) to settle and adjust the dispute with New Hampshire, nevertheless the measures to be pursued to effect those methods were rendered impracticable by the members east of said river, their withdrawing themselves from the House in an unconstitutional manner and forming a convention in direct violation of the most solemn oaths and obligations into which they had entered, declaring themselves discharged from any and every former confederation and association with this

this State.

And Whereas your Committee have just grounds to apprehend that the said sixteen towns are of right included within the jurisdiction of New Hampshire, they are therefore of opinion that the said union ought to be considered as being null from the beginning.

Jeremy Fay, Chairman of Committee.

The said report being read was accepted and this House do therefore Resolve that the said Union be and is hereby dissolved and made totally void, null and extinct, and that His Excellency the Governor be and he hereby is desired to communicate the foregoing report and resolve thereon to the President of the Council of the State of New Hampshire.

Extract from the minutes

Joseph Fay, Secty.

Association with Vermont looked upon as void
by a considerable number. 1778

State of Vermont Windsor October 22nd. 1778

We whose names are under written, mem-
bers of the Council and General Assembly of said
State be leave to lay before the Assembly the fol-
lowing as our Protest and declaration against
their proceeding on wednesday the twenty first
instant in passing the three following votes
or resolutions, viz.

"1st That the Counties in this State shall re-
"ceive as they were established by the Assembly
"of this State in March last.

2nd The Towns on the east side of the river inclu-
"ded in the Union shall not be included in the
"County of Cumberland.

3dly That the towns on the east side of the river
"shall not be erected into a District County by
"themselves,"

(as by said votes on the journals of the House may
appear) which votes are illegal, and in direct
violation of the Constitution of this State, and
the solemn engagements and publick faith plead-
ged by the resolutions of the said Assembly as by
the following observations plainly appear. viz.

1st That as the towns on the east side of said
river were never annexed to any County
in said State, they are consequently by said
vote entirely excluded the liberties, privileges,
protection, laws and jurisdiction of said State,
all which were granted them by the State
by an act or resolve of Assembly passed at Ben-
nington in June last containing the union

Same

and consolidation of the State, and said towns by which act or resolve of Assembly every town included in the union received by a grant from the then State of Vermont all the rights, powers and privileges of any other towns in said State, which they cannot be deprived of without their consent, as it was meaning that the grantor or grantors cannot resume their grant without the surrender of the grantee or grantees. 2nd That said votes are in direct opposition to a solemn resolution of the Assembly passed the 20th of instant establishing the report of the committee of both Houses in which report the Assembly have solemnly covenanted to defend the whole of the State entire as it then was, including said towns.

3rd That by the Constitution of the State especially the sixth article in the of rights government is instituted, or declared to be a right of every part of the community, and not a part only, said votes are therefore a violation of the constitution.

4th That so far as the Assembly have power, they have by said votes totally destroyed the constitution of the State, by depriving those towns included in the Union of the exercise of jurisdiction, power or privilege granted them, and the confederation by which the towns in the State are combined and held together as one body — and as no political body can exercise a partial jurisdiction by virtue of a confederation or agreement for the people to exercise government over the whole, it is therefore either void or destroys both the

the confederation. We do therefore hereby publicly declare and make known that we cannot consistent with our oaths, and engagements to this State (so long as said votes stand and continue in force) exercise any office, or place either legislative, executive or judicial in this State, but look upon ourselves as being thereby discharged from any and every former consideration and association with this State.

Isaac Arnold — Joseph Church D. G.
Reuben Foster — Peter Olcott Asst.
John Wheatley — Thos. Murdock Asst.
John Nutting — John Young
Nehemiah Esterbrooks — Joseph Bates
Abner Chandler — Abel Curtis
Benjamin Baldwin — Alexander Harvey
Francis Smith — Bela Turner
Elijah Alvord — Jonathan Freeman
Joseph Parkhurst — David Woodward
Benjamin Spaulding — Benja. Woodward
Elisha Payne — Stephen Tilden
Israel Morey — Thos. Baldwin
James Bailey,

256:19

From Elisha Payne to Meshech Weave

Charlestown October 27th 1781

Sir, The Commissioners appointed by by the State of Vermont to negociate and complete the settlement of the boundary lines between that State and the States of New Hampshire and New York respectively agreeable to the resolutions of the Legislature of Vermont, beg leave herewith to transmit their resolutions together with a duplicate of their commission for the consideration of the Legislature of New Hampshire.

The Commissioners are ready to attend the business of their appointment whenever they shall receive an answer in the premises.

On behalf of the Commissioners

I am Sir your most obedient and humble Servant

Elisha Payne

To the Honorable Meshech Weare Esq.
President, Council New Hampshire

256.20

Vermont Commissions 27. Oct. 1781.

His Excellency,

Thomas Chittenden Esq.

L.S. Captain General Governor and Commander in chief in and over the State of Vermont.

To the Honorable Elisha Payne, Jonas Fay, Ira Allen and Peter Olcott Esqrs; Colonel Gideon Warren, Phinehas Whitcomb Esqr; Colonel Joseph Caldwell and Ezra Stiles Esq. Greeting:

Agreeable to a resolution of the Governor Council and House of Assembly at their Session held at Manchestertown this Instant October appointing you Commissioners for and in behalf of the State of Vermont to enter upon a negociation for the settlement and adjustment of the boundary lines as well between the State of Newhampshire and Vermont as between the State of New York and Vermont agreeable to your directions contained in the resolutions aforesaid.

Now are therefore in the name and by the authority of the Freemen of the State of Vermont to authorize and empower you the said Elisha Payne ~~Jonathan~~ Jonas Fay, Ira Allen, Peter Olcott, Daniel Jones, Gideon Warren, Phinehas Whitcomb, Joseph Caldwell & Ezra Stiles

or

or any five of them the said Commissioners to
1. complete and carry into execution the nego-
ciation and settlement of the said boundary
lines of jurisdiction between the said States of
New Hampshire and New York with the said
State of Vermont respectively agreeable to
said resolutions.

And I do hereby pledge the faith of the
said State of Vermont that the determina-
tions had in the premises shall be held
sacredly binding on the part of Vermont.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto
set my hand and caused the seal of
this State to be affixed in Council this
27th day of October Anno Domini one thou-
sand seven hundred and eighty one — and
in the 5th year of the independence of
this State.

By his Excy. Command Thos. Chittenden

Tho. Tolman Depy. Secry.

Vermont Resolves 1778

State of Vermont } In General Assembly June 11th 1778
Cumberton ss. }

On the representation of the committee from the New Hampshire Grants (so called) east of Connecticut River, that the said grants are not connected with any State with respect to their internal police and that sixteen towns in the northwestern part of said Grants have assented to a union with this State agreeable to articles mutually proposed by this Assembly and a committee from the Grants east of said rivers as by said articles on file more fully may appear,

Whereupon Voted and resolved that the sixteen towns above referred to viz, Cornish, Lebanon, Enfield, Dresden, Cancern, Lardigen, Lime, Orford, Piermont, Bartlett, Barth, Lyman, Gunthwaite, Apthorp, Lemeduff and Morristown be and hereby are received into union with this State and are entitled to all the privileges and immunities vested in any town within this State.

Also Voted and Resolved that any town on the Grants east of Connecticut river contiguous to any of the towns aforementioned, and which has not yet assented to union with this State, shall be received on their exhibiting to the Assembly a certificate of a vote of a major part of the inhabitants

of such town in favor thereof, or on their appointment by a major part of the inhabitants of such town, of a member to represent them in the Assembly of this State, and that they shall thereby become entitled to all the rights appertaining to any town within this State agreeable to the rules prescribed in the Constitution.

Attest,

Benjamin Baldwin Jr. Clerk

A true copy of Record compared

Thos. Chandler Jr. Secy

256:22

Letter from Ira Allen to Meshech Weare Esq. Pres. of N.H.

Windsor Dec. 12th 1778

Honor.d Sir. As I wish to do nothing that concerns a neighboring State but what should be there made known I therefore herewith enclose to you my printed letter to the inhabitants of this State as also an extract of the proceedure of a convention called at the request of those gentlemen that withdrew from the Council and Assembly of Vermont at their session in October last Said convention was held at Cornish on the 9th day of Instant December — As I providentially happened at said Convention and as I have been conversant with the principal men in most of the towns between this and Cohoos shall make a few observations upon the present confused state of affairs in these parts.

There were eight towns represented in said Convention from the west side of the river and probable two or three more may join there but in most if not all of said towns there is a large minority in opposition to such a proceedure.

In the sixteen towns said to be in union with this State since the brake in the Assembly in October last the party that was in favour of New Hampshire have considerably increased.

Within the disaffected towns on both sides of the river are several gentlemen whose design is to brake up this State and connect the

whole

whole to Newhampshire for the sole purpose of bringing the seat of Government on Connecticut River at or near the College and to establish a plan of Government similar to Vermont.

There is no authority exercised east of Connecticut River by this State and I dare engage at the risque of my reputation as a man of honour or common sense that the future General Assembly of this State will not commence an encroachment on the State of Newhampshire.

In the year 1764 by an arbitrary act of the Crown the Grants west of the river were put under the jurisdiction of Newyork where the inhabitants have since experienced all the evils that a Golden, Dunmore and Tryon together with a clan of Newyork land jobbers could invent & inflict. in the course of which troubles (as I am informed) application was made to Newhampshire to espouse their claim which was refused. the inhabitants on the west of the Green Mountains boldly asserted their rights and defended their property until the late revolution soon after which overtures were made to the inhabitants of the then Counties of Cumberland and Gloucester who had in some degree submitted to the arbitrary power of Newyork and had then members in the Provincial Congress of said State after many persuasive arguments the inhabitants in said Counties connected with those on the west side of the Green Mountains to form a State and

proceed

proceeded to form a constitution &c.

Had it not been for that the inhabitants of this state would by their own consent been effectually bound to Newyork by connecting with them in forming a constitution &c. — Had that been the case no one would have been so hardy as to have thought of claiming the ancient jurisdiction of New Hampshire nor even New-Hampshire of claiming the now State of Vermont any more than the Massachusetts Bay the southerly part of said States. But it seems a few restless uneasy men not having the good of either of the States at heart (but their own private interest and emolument) are about to claim the ancient jurisdiction of New Hampshire — Should that be the case I doubt not but they will meet with such treatment as to justice oney expectation.

I am Honored Sir with due respect

Your most obedient

humble Servant

Ira Allen —

The Honorable

Meshech Weare Esq.

256:24

Vote of Moretown to be annexed to New Hampshire 25 May 1779

At a legal town meeting held in Moretown on the New Hampshire Grants the 25th day of May 1779. The number of voters to act in town meetings is forty. Fifteen attended said meeting and voted the following vote. It is our desire to be a new State but are willing to submit the matter to Congress whether we shall be a new State, and if that cannot be obtained, we desire to be annexed to the State of New Hampshire. And we find by information it is the opinion of the town in general that New Hampshire extend their jurisdiction over the whole of the Grants

Noah White
Ebenezer Martin } Selectmen

256:25

Letter from Thos. Chittenden to Hon. M. Moore

Winchor State of Vermont June 3. 1779.

Sir, The Honorable Jon. C.C. Allen Esqr. who was appointed to wait on the Honorable the Council and General Assembly of New Hampshire in March last with a letter from me, and to transact other publick business of this State with them, having reported to the General Assembly of this State that a Committee of the Assembly of New Hampshire appointed at their Last session, brought in a report that they thought it expedient, that New Hampshire should lay in a jurisdictional claim to the territory of Vermont, and that the consideration thereof was referred to their ~~June~~ Session in June instant. and the Assembly of this State having thus duly resumed the consideration of said report, have required me to acquaint your Honor, that after a full and deliberate debate on the subject, they conceive, that such a claim would be attended with very disagreeable consequences to both Governments, as it would tend to encourage a dangerous schism, created by certain disaffected persons to both Governments, which is now crumbling into its primitive nothing. I therefore earnestly request, that the State of New Hampshire do not lay in such a claime, as I presume, that by far the greater part of the inhabitants of this State are strenuously opposed to such a measure. The bearer Ira Allen Esqr. will be able to give your

Honor

Honor any further intelligence in the premises.

I am Sir your most obedient Humble Servant.

Thomas Chittenden

The Honorable Meshech Weare Esqr.

President of the Council New Hampshire.

256:27

Vote of the town of Peacham to be entered to N. H.

The town of Peacham having received warning ~~from~~ from T. Mersh, Chairman, to take the yeas and nays on the following question, viz. Whether this town is willing that the Assembly of New Hampshire extend their claim and jurisdiction over the whole of the Grants, New-Hampshire at the same time submitting to Congress whether a new State shall be established on the Grants.

25 May 1779

The town having been duly warned met accordingly the Twenty fifth day of May A.D. 1779 - and proceeded as follows viz.

1stly Chose James Bailey Moderator, and Jonathan Elkins Clerk of said meeting.

2nedly Proceeded to know the number of legal voters in said town and find eleven.

3edly. The number of legal voters that attended the meeting when the above questions were put and find seven. - viz.

James Bailey Yea
Jonathan Elkins Yea
Archibald M. Laughlin Yea
John Skiels Yea
James Bailey Jr. Yea
Peter Johnson Yea
Merhech Libby Yea

Jonathan Elkins, Town Clerk

Letter to Col. Allen

State of New-Hampshire Exeter Nov. 5th 1778

Sir. I received yours of the 23d Ult by Ira Allen Esqr and at the same time a Letter from Thomas Chittenden Esqr purporting a Resolution of the State of Vermont concerning their late Connection with some Towns part of the State of New-Hampshire in the following words. That no additional exercise of Jurisdictional authority be had by this State East of Connecticutt River for the time being — Which by no means expresses their future designs or intentions in the matter.

Nevertheless as you have been so full and explicit in your own Sentiments I trust the Body of your People will be of the same opinion, as I am sure every sensible person will notwithstanding the blind designs of some uneasy and never to be contented persons whose views must certainly be more detrimental to you than they possibly could be to New-Hampshire, whatever may be determined by Congress relative to the acknowledgement of your Independancy will be freely acquiesed in by New-Hampshire — —

Col Ethan Allen.

256:29

Elisha Payne to M. Moore

Sir 21 December 1781

I herewith transmit to your Honour a copy of orders received from the commander in chief of the State of Vermont issued in consequence of coercive measures pursuing by New Hampshire from which you will learn my situation.

Inclination and duty conspire to induce my compliance with any measures which reason and justice may point out to avert threatening hostilities pregnant not only with the horrors of civil war, but also the greatest injury to the United States whose interest it is our desire as well yours to support. I have therefore by advice of sundry members of the council of this State and other Gentlemen of influence and consideration now present appointed Brigadier General Enos and William Page Esq.r in conjunction with Col. Ira Allen (already appointed by the Governor to wait on your assembly) to state before the said Assembly the reasonableness of the late proposals of the legislature of Vermont transmitted to your Honor by a committee appointed by said legislature for that purpose for a settlement of the disputes between New-Hamshire and Vermont.

You must be sensible it has ever been our idea to have justice and equity take place in the decision and therefore by the advice aforesaid renew proposals that the controversy in respect to the territory the jurisdiction of which is in dispute between the said States

States be decided by an impartial tribunal on principles of right and equity in the mode Congress have pointed out by articles of consideration of the United States in cases when disputes arise between two or more States in respect to boundary jurisdiction &c Vermont being allowed equal privileges as the other party in support of their claim — and that hostilities between the said States be suspended till such trial can be had —

We doubt not a compliance on the part of Vermont with the foregoing proposals which appear to us equitable and just and are persuaded that New Hampshire are so possessed of principles of justice and equity as shall induce a compliance on their part, and hope for their favorable answer to lay before the Assembly of Vermont for their concurrence at their meeting on the last Thursday in January next.

In case New Hampshire refuse compliance with equitable terms (as we view the foregoing and are determined on hostilities previous to attemps for an amicable settlement, shall find myself under the disagreeable necessity to execute the orders I have received in raising the force of Vermont to repel encroachments on its jurisdiction exercised by consent of the people and which I doubt not their most spirited exertions to support till the dispute is decided confident that New Hampshire in case they commence hostilities

must

must be accountable for the consequences.

I have the honor to be with esteem and respect Sir

Your honor's most obedient

and most humble Servant

Elisha Payne. Lieut. Gov

His Honor Meshech Weare Esqr

President of the Council of New Hampshire.

Mr Estabrook's Letter. Oxford June 25th 1778

Honrd. Sir. The Convention of Committies fro
m the several Towns mentioned in the enclo
sed ~~Copies~~ Copies, take this opportunity to
transmit to you as President of the Council of the Sta
te of New-Hampshire a Resolve of the Assem
bly of the State of Vermont relative to a
union of said Towns &c with them by which
you will be availed of the Political Situation
of these United Towns & others on the Grants
who may comply with said Resolve. We hope
that notwithstanding an entire seperation
has now taken place between your State and
these towns an amicable settlement may be
come into at a proper time between the State
of Newhampshire and those towns on the Grants
that unite with the State of Vermont reative
to all civil and military affairs transacted in
connection with the State of Newhampshire
since the commencement of the present war
to the time of the Union so that amity and
friendship may subsist and continue
between between the two States.

I am Sir in behalf of the said
Convention with respect Your
obedient humble Servant.
Nehemiah Estabrook, Chairman

To the Honorable M. Weare Esq.
President of the Council
of New Hampshire.

256:3

Elisha Payn Lt. Gov. of Vermont to Gen. Roger Enos and William Page Esqr.

Gentlemen,

By advice of sundary members of the council of this State you are hereby appointed and empowered to repair forthwith to the Assembly of New-Hampshire and in conjunction with Col. Ira Allen (already there by appointment of the Governor) use your endeavours that said Assembly, consider and concur in the proposals made to them for settlement of the dispute between the two States relative to jurisdiction and agree on measures to prevent hostilities till an equitable and impartial determination of the said disputes can be obtained.

Elisha Payne Lieu Gov.

Charlestown Dec 21st 1781

Gov. Chittenden to Hon. Ira Allen.

State of Vermont } In Council Windsor June 4. 1779.

Agreeable to your appointment by the General Assembly of this State you are hereby authorized and empowered as agent to confer with the Honorable the Council and General Assembly of the State of New Hampshire on any Political matter which may concern the interest Peace and Tranquility of both States and in special to settle the boundary line of the respective Governments, as it is apprehended by the Council that such a settlement would be attended with the important consequence of quieting the actions now subsisting the design and tendency of which is to subvert the authority of both Governments.

By order of Council.

Thos. Chittenden

Hon. Ira Allen Esq.

Copy.

256: 3

Copy of Letter to the Comtee appointed to meet at Vermont by resolve of Congress.

Exeter July 3rd 1779

Gentlemen, A resolve of Congress of the first of June 1779. by which you were appointed a Committee to repair to the inhabitants of a certain District known by the name of the New Hampshire Grants and enquire into the reasons why they refuse to continue citizens of the respective States which heretofore exercised jurisdiction over the said Districts; hath been transmitted to the General Court of this State in consequence of which the said Court appointed Ebenezer Thompson Esqr. to meet on you at the said Grants. On behalf of the State to answer any matters that may be offered by persons heretofore under the jurisdiction of New Hampshire as reasons for their refusing to continue citizens thereof and any other things that may come under your enquiry in which this State is concerned

The Honorable the Committee
Appointed ~~to meet~~ by Congress to
meet at Vermont.

Letter from Ethan Allen.

Windsor 23. October 1778.

State of Vermont.

Sir, In conformity to my engagment to Col. Bartlett, one of the Members of Congress from New-Hampshire, I am induced to write to your Honor, respecting a number of Towns to the Eastward of Connecticut River, which inadvertantly by Influence of designing men have lately been brought into Union with the State of Vermont which in my opinion is Now entirely Difolved, I engaged Col. Bartlett, to use my Influence at this Assembly for that purpose, The Governors Letter to your Honour, together with what Squire Allen the Bearer will Communicate will set this Matter in its true Light. —

The Union I ever viewed to be Incompatable with the Right of New-Hampshire and have punctually discharged my obligation to Col. Bartlett, for its Dissolution, and that Worthy Gentleman on his part assured me that he had no Directions from the Government of New-Hampshire, to extend their claim to the westward of Connecticut River, to Interfere with the State of Vermont, and I hope that the Government of New-Hampshire will excuse the imbicility of Vermont in the matter of the Union, I apprehend Col Payne had a Principle Influence in it and it was with difficulty

that

that this Assembly got rid of him. —

I am appointed by this Assembly to act as Agent for the State of Vermont at Congress, where I shall shortly repair, and depend that New-Hampshire will accede to the Independancy of the State of Vermont, as the late Obsticles are Honourably removed. —

I am with Due Respect

Sir your very Humble Servant

Hon, Mesheck Wear. Esqr. — Ethan Allen.

256:30

Copy of Letter from Joseph Meech Chairman
to His Excy. Henry Laurens Esq. Prest. of Congress

Sir, May it please your Excellency.

The Assembly of the
State of Vermont have a report laid before them
on the 13th Instant signed by Col: Ethan Allen pur- dated
porting that Congress had received sundry Min Assem.
matters of information or complaint relative to the 10 Octobr
proceedings of the New-Hampshire Grants, and which 1778
they had determined to take into consideration; but
at his solicitation were deferred, till opportunity
might be had to communicate the intelligence to
the people on those Grants: respecting which we beg
leave in justice to our cause to remark that Col. Al-
len nor any other person (that we know of) has as
yet been authorized by the people on these Gran-
ts to appear in their behalf at Congress (except
those persons who presented a petition which was
dismissed last year) & which measure they had 30 June
omitted from an apprehension that Congress were 1777
desireous not to be troubled with the matter at present,
Nor do we by this mean any thing further than to
inform them that, on the above mentioned repre-
sentation, and copies of Letters from the Hon: the
President of the Council of New-Hampshire to their
Members at Congress and to Governor Chittenden,
the Assembly of Vermont in a Committee of the whole
agreed on the enclosed outline of a plan for setting
all matters of controversy with New-Hampshire.

We apprehend we can, and are now in pursuit of
measures to make it evident to impartial Judges that
the

the New-Hampshire Grants on both sides of the Con-
-necticut River are on the same footing, and ought
never to be divided -- on that principle the Commit-
-tee above mentioned proposed and the Assembly agree
to the enclosed plan, as having in their opinion the
most effectual tendency to support a Union of the
two sides of the River, and lay a foundation for an
amicable settlement with the State of New-Hamp-
-shire so that Congress may not have occasion to
interpose in the matter. - Yet an apprehension
arising in the minds of sundry Members of Assem-
-bly that such an Union (though in its nature
reasonable and just) would through the influence of
ex parte representations occasion Congress to come
to such resolutions as might prevent the establish-
-ment of a State on said Grants, has been the
occasion of differing sentiments with respect to mea-
-sures proper in the present juncture, and which have
arisen to such a pitch as to prevent a pursuit of
the proposed plan in the channel pointed out
by Assembly, by a protest and withdraw of near
one half the Members who composed that body.

The protesting Members notwithstanding,
desireous that the same plan might be pursu-
-ed, formed a voluntary convention who are in pursuit
of measures whereby the whole of the towns on said
Grants may unite in such proposals to New-Hampshire
as we flatter ourselves will put an end to all disputes
with that State.

In apprehension that measures will be attemp-
-ted to procure an acknowledgment at Congress of a
new

new State containing only that part of the Grants which lie west of Connecticut River (which we conceive will be very disagreeable to a Majority of the Inhabitants on said Grants) is the occasion of our transmitting this by Col. Wheelock, whom we have also desired to inform Your Excellency or Congress more fully of the matter than the limits of this letter will admit, and request that nothing may be done at Congress which shall prevent the good effects of the measures now taking for an happy settlement with the State of New-Hampshire. —

I am, Sir, in behalf of said Convention with great defference and respect. —

Your Excellency's most Obedient
and most Humble Servant.
Signed, Joseph Marsh Chairman.

His Excellency Henry Laurens Esqr.
President of Congress. Copy

Thomas Chittenden To Saml. Huntington President

of Congress.

Bennington 25th. July 1780

Sir, Your Excellency's letter of the tenth inst. inclosing several acts of Congress of the second and ninth of the same month I accidentally received the 6th. Instant, have laid them before my Council and taken their advice thereon.

And now by your Excellency's indulgence while I treat on a subject of such moment in its nature and which so nearly concerns the citizens of this State.

However Congress may view their resolutions they are considered by the People of this State as being in their nature subversive of the natural rights which they have to liberty and independence as well as incompatable with the principles on which Congress ground their own rights to independence and have a natural and direct tendency to endanger the liberties of America which have hitherto been defended at great expense both of blood and treasure.

Vermont's rights to independence has been sufficiently argued and the good consequences resulting to the United States from its first assuming government clearly vindicated in sending pamphlets which have been officially laid before Congress. I beg leave to refer your Excellency to Vermont's appeal &c. particularly from the thirty second to the forty second page in which among other things

is

is contained a particular answer to the resolution of the twenty fourth of September referred to in the resolve of the second of June last and a denial of the authority of Congress over this State so far as relates to their existence as a free and independent Government. & find notwithstanding by a resolution of the ninth ult. that Congress have assigned the second Tuesday of September next to judge absolutely of the independence of Vermont as a seperate jurisdiction.

Can Congress suppose that this Government are so void of reason as not to discern that the resolves of the second and ninth of June aforesaid (so far as the authority of Congress may be supposed to extend to this State) are directly levelled against their independency? Vermont as before mentioned being a free and independent State have denied the authority of Congress to judge of their jurisdiction.

Over the head of all this, Congress have, it appears by their resolutions of the ninth ult. determined that they have power to judge the cause which has already determined the essence of the dispute, for if Vermont does not belong to some one of the United States Congress could have no such power without their consent: so that consequently determining that they have such a power, has determined that Vermont has no right to independency, for it is utterly incompatable with the rights and prerogatives of an independent State to be under

the

the control or arbitrement of any other Power.

Vermont have therefore no other alternative, they must either submit to the unwarrantable decree of Congress or continue their appeal to Heaven and to arms. There may in future be a trial at Congress which of the United States shall possess this territory or how it shall be divided among them (but this does not concern Vermont) and it is altogether probable that there have been proposals for dividing it between the States of New Hampshire and New York, the same as the King of Prussia, the Empress of Russia and the Empress of Hanover, divided Poland between those powers; with this difference only that the former are not in possession of Vermont.

The cloud that has hovered over Vermont since the ungenerous claims of New Hampshire and Massachusetts Bay, has been seen and its motions carefully observed by this Government who expected that Congress would have averted the storm but disappointed in this and unjustly treated as the People (over whom I preside on the most serious and candid deliberation) conceive themselves to be in this affair; yet blessed by Heaven with constancy of mind and some friends as our honest valiant and brave People are necessitated solemnly to declare to your Excellency, to Congress, and to the world, that as life liberty and the rights of this People entrusted them by God are inestimable; they do not expect to be justified in the eye of Heaven or

that

that posterity would call them to place, if they should tamely surrender any part. —

Without doubt Congress have (previous to this) been acquainted that this State hath maintained several forts on its frontiers, at its own expence, which is well known to be the only security to this quarter of the inhabitants of the States of Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire, and it is highly probable that Albany and such parts of the State of New York as lies to the northward of that, would before this time have been ravaged by the common enemy, had it not been for the indefatigueable exertions of this State, and the forces which the enemy have been, and are still possessd of that this retreat would be intercepted by the troops from those forts, and the Militia of this State.

Thus by guarrying the frontiers, has this State secured the friendship of a part of the private gentlemen and yeomanry, even of those States, whose representatives it seems, are seeking its destruction; and herein the general approbation of disinterested States, this people are immediately in a condition to receive Government; but should they be deceived in such expectations, yet as they are not included in the Western United States, but conceive themselves to be a separate body, they would have still in their power other advantages for they are if necessitated

to

to it, at liberty to offer, or accept terms of cessation of hostilities with Great Britain, without the co-operation of any other men or body of men; for on proviso that neither Congress, nor the Legislature of those States which they represent will support Vermont in her independence, but devote her to the unjust government of any other power, she has not the most distant motives to continue hostilities with Great Britain and maintain an important frontier for the benefit of the United States, and for no other reward than the ungrateful one, of being encircled by them. — True, Vermont has taken an active part in the war subsisting between the United States and Great Britain, under an expectation of securing her liberty, considering the claims of Great Britain to make laws "to bind the Colonies in all cases whatsoever without their consent" to be an abridgement of the natural rights of mankind, and it appears that the said resolves of the 2nd and 9th of June, are equally arbitrary, and that they furnish equal motives to the citizens of Vermont, to resist the one as the other. For if the United States have departed from the virtuous principles, upon which they first commenced the war with Great Britain and have assumed to themselves the power of usurping the rights of Vermont, it is time, high time for her seriously to consider what she is fighting for and to what purpose she has been more than five

years

years last past, spilling the blood of her bravest sons — This Government have dealt with severity towards the tories, confiscated some of their estates, imprisoned some, banished some, and hanged some &c. and kept the remainder in as good subjection as any State belonging to the Union. And they have likewise granted unto worthy whigs in the neighbouring States, some part of their unappropriated lands, the inconsiderable avails of which, have been faithfully appropriated for the defence of the northern frontiers, which continually terminates in the support of the interest and security, the independance and sovereignty of the United States. And after having faithfully executed all this, have the mortification to meet with the resentment of Congress, circulated in hand bills, and in the Newyork publick papers representing their conduct "in contravening the good intentions of Congress, as being highly misrepresentable and subversive of the peace and welfare of the United States!" Those resolves serve only to raise the expiring hopes and expectations and to revive a languishing flame, of a few tories and schismatics in this State, who have never been instrumental in promoting the common cause of America.

With regard to the State of Massachusetts Bay, they have not as a Legislative body, laid any claims to the territory of Vermont, nor have

they

they enacted laws, judicially authorizing Congress to take cognizance thereof, agreeable to the aforementioned resolves, a majority of their Legislative body, considering such Interference to be an infringement on the rights of Vermont, and therefore the State of Massachusetts Bay, cannot be considered as a party in the controversy, and off to the State of New Hampshire, although they have judicially authorized Congress to make a final adjudication, of their late started and very extraordinary claim to the territory of Vermont, yet by recurring back to original proceedings between the two States, it appears that the General Court of New Hampshire had, previous to laying their said claim, settled their boundary line with the State of Vermont, and established Connecticut river for the boundary between the respective Governments; and so far as the approbation of the Government of New Hampshire can go, have previously conceded to the independence of Vermont. The particulars of which are too prolix to be given in this letter but are extracted at large in a pamphlet, entitled "A concise refutation of the claims of New Hampshire and Massachusetts Bay to the territory of Vermont" &c. which is herewith transmitted, as a bar against the rights of New Hampshire to a trial

for

256:42

for any part of Vermont. The government of New Hampshire ever since the royal adjudication of the boundary line between them and the government of New York in 1764. have exercised the rights of the contested territory, out of their protection and abandoned them to the tyranny of New York, and hence very lately over the head of the settlement aforesaid laid claim to the said territory, and enacted laws as aforesaid to enable congress to judicially determine the merit of said claim.

How glaringly illegal, absurd, and inconsistent, must their conduct as a legislative body appear in this respect. Such irregularities among individuals arise from ——

The ill government of the human passions but when it takes place in public bodies it is unpardonable, as its influence is more extensive and injurious to society.

Hence it appears that, (legally speaking,) neither of the States of New Hampshire or Massachusetts Bay, can be, with propriety considered as parties in the controversy, and consequently, New York alone is left as contestor with Vermont. Even admitting that Congress are possessed of sufficient authority to determine those disputes, agreeable to their resolutions, which by this Government is by no means admissible, Notwithstanding the usurpation and

and injustice of neighboring Governments towards Vermont, and the late resolutions of Congress, this Government, from a principle of virtue and close attachment to the cause of liberty as well as a thorough examination of their own policy, are induced, once more to offer Union with the United States of America, of which Congress are the legal representative body.— Should this be denied, this State will propose the same to the Legislatures of the United States severately, and take such other measures as self preservation may justify

In behalf of the Council I am

Sir your Excellency's most

Obedient humble Servant

Thos. Chittenden

To His Excellency

Samuel Huntington Esquire

President of Congress

A true Copy

Attest, Thomas Sobieski P. Secy.

State of Vermont

Charlestown 16th. October 1784

The Governor and Council having joined the General Assembly in a Committee of the whole, to take into consideration the report of the Honorable Jonas Fay, Ira Allen and Bezaleel Woodward Esquires, who were appointed by the Legislature of this State, in the month of June last to repair to the American Congress, with powers to propose to and to receive from, them terms for an union of this, --- with the United States &c.

His Excellency Thomas Chittenden Esq. in the Chair

The said agents laid before the Committee the following papers, which were read, by the Secretary in their order viz.

1st & 2nd A copy of their letter to the President of Congress, of the 14th of August last inclosing a duplicate of their commission.

3rd The resolutions of Congress of the 7th. and 8th. of August last.

4th Brigadier General Bellows and Associates petition to New Hampshire 25th May 1781.

5th Petition of the Select men of Swanzey to New Hampshire, June 9th 1781.

6th Honorable Meshech Weare Esqrs. letter, to be laid before Congress, dated 20th. June 1781.

7th. Messrs. Duane and Ezra L. Hommedieu's Memorial and Prayer to Congress, of the third day of August 1781: together with Ira Allen and Stephen R. Bradley Esqrs. Remonstrance to Congress dated

dated September 22nd. 1780.

8th. Resolve of Congress dated 17th. August 1781.

9th. Written proposals to Committee of Congress. dated August 18th. 1781.

10th. Questions proposed to the Agents of Vermont, by the Committee of Congress August 18th. 1781.

11th. The foregoing questions with the answers annexed.

12th. Resolutions of Congress. of the 20th. August 1781.

The further consideration of the report being referred.

Adjourned to tomorrow morning 9 oclock.

October 17th. Met according to adjournment.

The Committee proceeded to the consideration of the resolutions of Congress, of the 20th. day of August aforesaid; and other papers mentioned in the report of said Agents, and after some time spent thereon:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Committee, the Legislature cannot comply with the resolutions last referred to, without destroying the foundation of the present universal harmony and agreement, that subsists in this State, and a violation of solemn compact, entered into by articles of union and confederation.

The further consideration of the report being postponed. Adjourned to 9 oclock tomorrow morning.

October 18th. The Committee having resumed the further consideration of the said report,

Resolved that inasmuch as the resolutions of Congress of the 7th and 20th. of August last did by no means comport with, but entirely preclude any propositions made by our Agents, it is therefore the opinion of this Committee, that the

Propositions

propositions made by our agents to the Committee of Congress, on the eighteenth of August last, ought not, in future, to be considered as binding, on the part of Vermont. ——

Resolved then it be, and is hereby recommended to the Legislature of this State, that their thanks be returned to their honorable agents, for their good services in behalf of this State, on the business of their late mission to the Congress of the United States of America. ——

And this Committee recommend to the Legislature of this State to remain firm in the principles on which the State of Vermont first assumed government and to hold the articles of union which connect each part of the state with the other, inviolate, and for the further information, and satisfaction of the Honorable the Congress, and the world, do recommend to the Legislature to publish the following articles, which respect the admission of Vermont into the federal Union, viz,

Art. 1st. That the independence of the State of Vermont be held sacred, and that no member of the Legislature shall give his vote, or otherwise use his endeavors, to obtain any act or resolution of Assembly, that shall endanger the existence, independence and well being of said State, by referring its independency to the arbitrament of any power.

Art. 2nd. That whenever this State becomes united with the American States, and there shall then be any dispute between this, and any of the

united

United States, respecting boundary lines; the Legislature of the State of Vermont, will then, (as they have ever proposed) submit to Congress, or such other Tribunal as may be mutually agreed upon, for the settlement of any such disputes.

And that the impartial world may be fully convinced of the good and Equitable disposition of Vermont, and of her readiness to comply with any reasonable proposal, for the adjustment of the disputes, respecting boundary lines between this and the neighboring States of New-Hampshire and New York; this Committee further recommend to the Legislature, to make the following Proposals to the said States of New-Hampshire and New York respectively.

That whereas disputes have arisen between the States of New Hampshire and Vermont, relative to jurisdictional boundary lines &c.; the Legislature of Vermont being willing and desirous as much as in them lies, to promote unity and good accord between the two States; do propose to the State of New Hampshire, that all matters relating to the aforesaid dispute, shall be submitted to five or more, judicious unprejudiced persons; who shall be mutually agreed on, elected and chosen by a committee of Legislature on the part of each State respectively; and that the State of New Hampshire and Vermont, do pledge their faith, each to the other, that the decision had by the persons so elected, being made up in writing, signed by the President of such Commissioners,

and

256.45

and delivered to the Secretary of each State respectively, shall be held mutually binding on each of the said States of New Hampshire and Vermont forever. And that Proposals of the same tenor be also made to the Legislature of New York.

And this Committee do further recommend, that nine persons be elected Commissioners by the Legislature on the part of Vermont, to treat with Commissioners to be elected on the part of New Hampshire, and Newyork respectively for the adjusting the aforesaid jurisdictional boundary lines; and that they be commissioned by his Excellency the Governor, and the faith of this State be by him pledged, in behalf of the State, that decision thus had, shall in future be held as mutually binding, on the part of Vermont.

This Committee further recommend to the Legislature, that the proceedings of this Committee be officially transmitted to the Congress of the United States; and that they be enclosed in a letter, under the signature of his Excellency the Governor, and directed to the President of Congress.

And that this Committee do further recommend the Legislature to recommend to the authority, in every part of the State, to exercise firm in the support of Government, and the punctual execution of the laws, notwithstanding the various measures taken to create divisions and discord.

The Commissioners chosen for the above purpose, Phinehas Whiteside, Gideon Warren, Joseph Caldwell Esqrs. the Honorable Elisha Payne and

Daniel

Daniel Jones Esqr., Ezra Styles Esqr., The honorable James Fay, Ira Allen and Peter Olcott Esqrs.

Resolved That it be an instruction to the said Commissioners, That They prepare and make the necessary defence in the premises, and That They introduce the said matters to New Hampshire and New York, in such way, as to them shall appear best.

19th. October 1781. — Voted That this Committee be dissolved.

Benja. Woodward Clerk of Comm.te

State of Vermont. — In General Assembly Chesterstown October 19th. 1781. The aforesaid Report being read, and the question put, it was unanimously approved & accepted.

Attest, Roswell Hopkins, Clerk

In Council 19th. October 1781.

Read and concurred.

Attest, Joseph Fay Secy.

30th. October 1781

The Preceding is a true Copy of an act of the Legislature of the State of Vermont, lodged in the Secretary's Office of the said State.

Mirch Townsend Secy.

25.6.46

Letter to Hon. T. Chittenden

State of New Hampshire. Exeter November 5. 1778.

Sir, Your Letter of the 23 Ult. was delivered me by Mr. Allen, and hath been laid before the Gen. Assembly of this State who have directed me to observe that the resolution of the Representatives of your people wch you mention viz- "That no additional exercise of jurisdictional Authority be had (by this state) east of Connecticutt River for the time being, is not an explicit determination to break off all connections as a distinct political body with the towns east of Connecticutt River, but is so ambiguously expressed as to shew nothing of your future intentions on the Subject.

However as you refer us to Mr. Allen the bearer for further satisfaction in the Premisses "that Gentleman has with openness & candur informed us that some particular circumstances in your affairs had hindered a more particular and explicit declaration on the Subject, yet assured us that he had no doubt but a Considerable Majority of your People would totally reject any further connection with the people east of Connecticutt River as a Political Body. On which state of the matter we shall depend as that only can hinder difficulties arising between the State of New-Hampshire and the People settled on the New Hampshire Grants of so called West of Connt River. Honble Thomas Chittenden.

4 March 1779

256:47
4 March
1779

Letter from Col. Allen to Mesheck Weare Esq.

Sir, The union which was for a time impoliticeally adhered to by a majority of this State, and which received its eleventh wound, at the Session of our General Assembly in October last, at Windsor had at our late Session at Bennington, been in the fullest and most explicit manner dissolved; and and that without a dissenting vote. —

And as the laws of this State are nearly ready for the Press, and will soon be promulgated among the People, after which this Government will exert itself, to quiet the schism on this side the river, and I hope your Government will vigorously exert their authority to the east banks of the river, for I consider the schism on both sides, to be expressly against both Governments, and therefor both should join to suppress it. — I have this further reason for the exertion of Government, as I am confident that ungovernment will be lost with them, for the heeds of the schism at large, are a petulent, Pettifogging scribbling sort of Gentry, that will keep any Government in hot water, till they are thoroughly brought under, by the exertions of authority.

This matter I submit to your better judgement, and remain with due respect your Honours most obedient and humble Servant

Ethan Allen

Bennington March the 4th. 1779.

Honorable Mesheck Weare Esq.

T. Chittenden to Mathew Weare Esqr.

In Council. Bennington 26th Feby. 1779

Sir. Your favor of the 5th of November last was reconcedly delivered me by Ira Allen Esq. I have purposely omitted an answer until the General Assembly at their present Session should be able to direct me in what manner I might be warranted to do it, which I find cannot be more explicitly done, than by enclosing their resolution, for dissolving the union (so called) with sixteen towns east of Connecticut River, which I herein enclose.

The laws of this State are now nearly fitted for the Press and will be immediately printed and circulated amongs the inhabitants, the execution of which I flatter myself will prove sufficient to quiet any disturbance among the inhabitants west of the Connecticut River, but as those on the east side (who have been heretofore considered as being united with this State) are accomplices with some few disaffected persons on the west side Connecticut River in exciting feuds and jealousies to the disturbance of New-Hampshire as well as this State, Your wisdom therefore in quieting those disturbances east of the river will doubtless prove sufficient.

The bearer hereof Ira Allen Esq. who is appointed to communicate this, will be able to give further intelligence in the premises.

I am Sir with sentiments of esteem Your Honours most obedient humble Servant

Thos. Chittenden

The Honble. Mathew Weare Esq.
Presidt. of the Honble Council of the State of New Hampshire

From Mr Chittenden

State of Vermont. In Council

Bennington 26th. of Feby. 1779.

Resolved That Ira Allen Esq. be and hereby is appointed and enpowered an agent from this State to confer with the Council, and General Assembly of the State of New Hampshire on any Political matters which may concern the interest, peace and tranquillity of both States; and in special to settle the boundary line of the respective Governments, and as it is apprehended by this Council that such a settlement would be attended with the important consequence of quieting the schism now subsisting; the design, and tendency of which is to subvert the authority of both governments

By order of Council

Thos. Chittenden Govr.

256:49

Letter from Genl Bellows to Hon Meshech Weare

Sir. Walpole Janry 2d 1782.—

I have often troubled you with a narration of our distresses and difficulties in this part of the State Notwithstanding I presume you, and the rest of the Honorable committee of safety will exercise your wonted indulgence, while I give an account of some new difficulties. arising on the officers attempting to convey one Samuel King of Chesterfield to Exeter — Which Reports you will have an account of before this reaches you — Upon the return of the mob, after proper refreshment, at said Kings they sought for all those persons, who were any way concerned in assisting the aforesaid officer, some of which they got into their hands and have abused in a shameful and barbarous manner, by striking, kicking and all the indignities which such a hellish pack can be guilty of, obliging them to promise and engage never to appear against the new state again, and this is not all, they swear they will extirpate all the adherents to New Hampshire, threatning to kill, burn and destroy the persons and properties of all who oppose them, That the friends of this State cannot continue at Chesterfield with their families, but are obliged to seek an asylum in other towns among the Hampshire people, I have two respectable inhabitants of said Chesterfield now sheltering themselves

under

under my roof who I have the greatest reason to think would be treated by them in a barbarous manner were they in their power as they have done the doors and broke up houses in search of them. I am credibly informed that there is in said Chesterfield about one hundred persons who support said King, who deem New Hampshire and all their authority to fall, and say they (New Hampshire) can do nothing only in a mean underhanded way; in short, they defy all the authority and force of the State and are determined to support and maintain their usurped authority measure all attempts that have or shall be made to curb and restrain their usurpations. The wrath of man and the raging of the sea are in scripture put together and it is he alone who can rule the latter and restrain the former. I hope and trust the Author of wisdom will direct the Honorable Committee to such measures as will ultimately tend to the peace and the happiness of this part of the State and more especially those adherents to New Hampshire, who are in a state of suffering for righteousness sake.

I am with all esteem & respect
Your most obedient humble
Servant
Benjamin Bellows

Honorable Meshech Weare Esq.

256:50

Petition

15 January 1777

To the Honorable the Continental Congress

The declaration and petition of the Inhabitants of that part of North America situate south of Canada line, west of Connecticut River, north of the Massachusetts Bay and east of a twenty mile line from Hudson's River, containing about one hundred and forty four townships, of the contents of six miles square each, granted your petitioners by the authority of New Hampshire, besides several grants made by the authority of New York and a quantity of vacant land.

Humbly sheweth, That your petitioners by virtue of the several grants made them by the authorities aforesaid, have many years since with their families become actual settlers and inhabitants of the said described premises, by which it is now become a respectable frontier to three neighboring States and is of great importance to our common barrier Ticonderoga, as it has furnished the army there with much provisions, and can muster more than five thousand bravely soldiers capable of bearing arms in defence of American liberty.

That shortly after your petitioners began their settlements a party of land-jobbers in the City and State of New York began to claim the lands, and took measures to have them declared to be within that jurisdiction.

That

That on the fourth day of July 1764 the King of Great Britain did pass an order in Council extending the jurisdiction of New-York Government to Connecticut River, in consequence of a representation made by the late Lieutenant Governor Colden, that for the convenience of trade and administration of justice, the inhabitants were desirous of being annexed to said State,

That upon this alteration of jurisdiction the said Lieutenant Governor Colden did grant several tracts of land in the above discribed limits, to certain persons living in the State of Newyork, which were at that time in the actual possession of your petitioners, and under whom of the lawful authority of said State did proceed against your petitioners as lawless intruders upon the Crown-lands in their Province. This produced an application to the King of Great Britain from your petitioners setting forth their claims under the Government of Newhampshire and the disturbance and interruption they had incurred from said pretended claimants under Newyork. And on the 24th. day of July 1767 an order was passed at St. James prohibiting the Governor of Newyork, for the time being, from granting any part of the said discribed premises on pain of incurring his Majesty's highest displeasure. Nevertheless the same Lieutenant Governor Colden, the Governors

Drummore

Dunmore and Tryon have each and every of them in their respective turns of administration presumed to violate the said royal order, by making several grants of the prohibited premises, and countenancing an actual invasion of your petitioners to drive them off from their possessions.

That violent proceedings, (with the solemn determination of the Supreme Court of the State of New York that the charters, conveyances &c. of your petitioners lands are utterly null and void, on which they were founded,) reduced your petitioners to the disagreeable necessity of taking up arms as the only means left for the security of their possessions. The consequence of this step was the passing of twelve acts of outlawry by the Legislature of New York on the ninth day of March 1774 which were not intended for the State in general but only for part of the counties of Albany and Charlotte, viz. such parts thereof as are covered by the New Hampshire charters.

Your petitioners having had no representation in that assembly when the acts were passed, they first came to the knowledge of them by the public papers in which they were inserted. By these they were informed, that if three or more of them assembled together to oppose what said assembly called legal authority, that such as should be found assembled to the number of three or more should be adjudged felons; and that in case they or any of them should not

surrender

surrender himself or themselves to certain officers appointed for the purpose of securing them after a warning of seventy days. that then it should be lawful for the respective Judges of the Supreme Court of the Province of Newyork to award execution of death, the same as though he or they had been attainted before a proper Court of Judicatory.

These laws were evidently calculated to intimidate your petitioners into a tame surrender of their rights, and such a state of vassalage as would entail misery to their latest posterity.

It appears to your petitioners that an infringement of their rights is still meditated by the State of Newyork, as we find that in their General Convention at Haerlem the second day of August last, it was unanimously voted that all the quitrents formerly due to the crown of Great Britain within this State are now due and owing to this Convention, or such future government as may hereafter be established in this state.

By a submission to the claims of Newyork your petitioners would be subjected to the payment of two shillings and six pence sterling on every hundred acres annually, which compared with the quitrents of Livingston's, Phillipse and Rensselaer's Manors and many other enormous tracts in the best situations in the State would levy the most disproportionate share of the public expence on your petitioners in all respects the least able to bear it.

The Convention of Newyork have now nearly completed

completed a code of laws for the future govern-
ment of that State, which should they be attempted
to be put in execution will subject your peti-
tioners to the fatal necessity of opposing them
by every means in their power.

When the declaration of the Honorable the
Continental Congress of the fourth of July last,
reached your Petitioners, they communicated
it throughout the whole of their district, and being
properly apprised of the proposed meeting, del-
egates from the several Counties and Towns in the
District, described in the Preamble to this Petition,
did meet at Watertown in said District, and
after several adjournments for the purpose
of forming themselves into a distinct and sep-
arate State, did make and publish a declar-
ation that they would at all times thereafter
consider themselves as a free and independent
State capable of regulating their own internal
police in all and every respect whatsoever
and that the people in said described district
have the sole exclusive right of governing
themselves in such manner and form as
they in their wisdom should choose not re-
pugnant to any resolves of the Honorable the
Continental Congress. And for the mutual
support of each other in the maintenance
of the freedom and independence of the said
District or separate State the said delegates
did jointly and severally pledge themselves
to each other by all the ties that are held

sacred

sacred among men and resolve and declare that they were at all times ready in conjunction with their brethren in the United States to contribute their full proportion towards the maintaining and supporting the present just war against the Fleets and armies of Great Britain.

To convey their declaration and resolution to your Honorable body the grand representative of the United States were we your most immediate petitioners delegated by the united and unanimous voices of the representatives of the whole body of settlers upon the described premises in whose name and behalf we humbly pray that the said declaration may be received and the District described therein be ranked by your Honors among the free and independent States and delegates therefrom admitted to seats in the Grand Continental Congress.

And your petitioners as in duty bound &c.

New Hampshire Grants Westminster
15th January 1777

Signed by order and in behalf of the General Convention

James Fay
Thomas Chittenden
Heman Allen
Reuben Jones
} Delegates

256:53

In Committee of safety for the State of New York Fishkill January 20th. 1777.

Letter

Whereas until the commencement of the present contest with Great Britain the inhabitants of Cumberland and Gloucester Counties ne general submitted to the jurisdiction of this State; many of them obtained grants and confirmations of title from the late government and justice was administered by magistrates of its appointment.

And whereas a spirit of defection and revolt has lately been extended to those Counties through the arts and misrepresentations of certain people inhabiting the County of Charlotte distinguishing themselves by the name of the Green Mountain Boys and their emissaries.

And whereas the Congresses and conventions of this State have hitherto contemplated the effects of this dangerous insurrection with silent concern being restrained from giving it a suitable opposition by the apprehension that it might at so critical a juncture weaken our exertions in the common cause.

And whereas the said insurgents and their emissaries taking advantage of the Inattention forbearance of this State and encouraged by the countenance and strength which they have acquired by being embodied into a regiment under the immediate

authority

authority of the Continental Congress and without the consent or cooperation of this State, have basely invited divers of the inhabitants of towns within the said counties of Cumberland and Gloucester to unite with them in assuming a total independence of this State choosing a seperate convention and framing a petition to the Honorable Congress for its sanction and approbation of this unprovoked revolt.

And whereas the loss of so valuable a territory as is now attempted to be wrested from this State by the violence of an inconsiderable part of its members who have during the present war received liberal allowances out of the publick treasury for their more immediate protection will not only oppress the remainder with the payment of the enormous debts which have accrued in the common cause but must at every future period expose this State to be intruded into & overrun its jurisdiction to be denied and its authority to be contemned and set at defiance.

And whereas divers ill disposed persons have with wicked and sinister purposes reported that members of the Honorable the Continental Congress and others men of influence and authority in the neighbouring States do favor and support the

insurrection

insurrection aforesaid.

And whereas the said ill disposed persons have also insinuated, That the Honorable the Congress do countenance a design of dismembering this State by appointing Seth Warner who hath heretofore been and still continues a principal agent and abettor of the riot and revolt aforesaid to command the before-mentioned regiment.

And whereas the appointment of the said Seth Warner is utterly inconsistent with the usual mode adopted in Congress and approved of in this and the neighbouring States and contrary to the express representation in similar case made to the Honorable Congress on the eleventh day of July last by the Convention of this State.

And whereas such reports and insinuations not only tend to justify the turbulent and disaffected inhabitants of the said Counties but discourage the good subjects of this State and discourages them from risqueing their lives and fortunes in the defence of America while there is reason for apprehending that after all their vigorous efforts and all they have suffered and must continue to suffer for the common cause and even after a successful period to the present conflict shall have restored happiness and security to their sister States this State alone may remain exposed to havock desolation

and

and sincerely and be deprived of great and valuable territories to gratify the ambitious unjust and selfish projects of its disorderly subjects.

And whereas the inveterate foes to the liberties of America from the earliest commencement of the present glorious contest have endeavoured to eliminate the minds of the good people of this State from the common cause by representing that nothing less than the power of Great Britain can guarantee their territorial rights and protect their jurisdiction against insurrection and encroachment and it is a truth to be lamented that such representations have proved but too successful and have now acquired additional force by reason of the premises.

And Whereas it has become absolutely necessary not only for the preservation of the authority of this convention and the confidence and respect of its constituents but for the success of the United States so far as they depend upon or are connected with this branch of the Grand American confederacy that proper and vigorous measures should be forthwith exerted for vindicating its rights and asserting and securing its jurisdiction and as a preliminary step to quieting the aforesaid disturbances removing the jealousies and apprehensions of the good people of this State and depriving the wicked emissaries of Great Britain of the

Principal

256:55

principal arguments by which they hitherto have and still continue to debauch their minds and seduce them from their allegiance to this State and their attachment to the common cause, a suitable application to the honorable the Congress of the United States may be attended with the most salutary effects and that in the mean time coercive measures be suspended.

Resolved therefore, That a proper application be immediately made to the Honorable the Congress to whose justice the said insurgents have appealed and on whose ulterior they pretend to rely requesting them to interpose their authority and recommend to the said insurgents a peaceable submission to the jurisdiction of this State and also to disband the said regiment directed to be raised by Col. Warner as this Convention hath cheerfully and voluntarily undertaken to raise a regiment in addition to the quota designed for this State by Congress have opened their utmost resources to the wants and necessities of the American army; have a very great proportion of this militia now in the field and are heartily disposed to contribute to the publick service in every respect as far as the circumstances and abilities of the State will permit.

Extract from the minutes

Robert Benson, Secretary

Fishkill 20th January 1777.

Sir, I am directed by the committee of safety of Newyork to inform Congress that by the arts and influence of certain designing men a part of this State hath been prevailed on to revolt and disavow the authority of its Legislature.

It is our misfortune to be wounded so sensibly while we are making our utmost exertions in the common cause.

The various evidences and informations we have received would lead us to believe that persons of great influence in some of our sister States have fostered and fomented these divisions in order to dismember this State at a time when by the inroads of our common enemy we were supposed to be incapacitated from defending our just claims. But as these informations tend to accuse some members of your Honorable body of being concerned in this extreme cruelty obliges us to suspend our belief.

The Congress will doubtless remember that so long ago as the month of July last we complained of the great injury done us by appointing officers within this State without our consent or approbation. We could not then nor can we now perceive the reason of such disadvantageous disconnection between this State and its neighbors. We have been taught to believe

that

that each of the United States is entitled to equal rights: in what manner have the rights of New York been forfeited we are at a loss to discover and although we have never received any answer to our last letter on this subject yet we did hope that no fresh grounds of complaint would have been offered us.

The Convention are sorry to observe that by conferring a commission on Col. Warner with authority to name the officers of a regiment to be raised independent of the Legislature of this State and within that part which hath lately declared an independence upon it Congress hath but given too much weight to the insinuations of those who pretend that your Honorable body are determined to support these insurgents; especially as this Col. Warner hath been constantly and invariably opposed to the Legislature of this State and hath been on that very account proclaimed an outlaw by the Government thereof. However confiding in the honor and justice of the great Council of America we hope that you have been surprised into this measure.

By order of this House, Sir. I enclose you the resolution upon the important subject of this letter and am further to observe that it is absolutely necessary to recall the commissions given to Col. Warner

and

and the officer under him as nothing else could do justice to us and convince those deluded people that longer hence not been prevailed on ~~in this~~ to exist in dismembering a State which of all others has suffered most in the common cause.

The King of Great Britain hath by force of arms taken from us five Counties and an attempt is made in the midst of our distress to Surloin from us three other counties. We must consider the persons concerned in such designs as open enemies of this State and in consequence of all America.

To maintain our jurisdiction over our own subjects is become indispensably necessary to the authority of the Convention nor will any thing less silence the plausible arguments by which the disaffected deluded our constituents and alienate them from the common cause. On the success of our efforts on this contest depends, too probably, even the power of convention to be longer serviceable in this glorious contest. It is become a common remark in the mouths of our most Zealous friends that if the State is to be rent asunder and its jurisdiction subverted to gratify its deluded and disorderly subjects it is folly to hazzard their lives and fortunes in a contest which in every event must terminate in their ruin.

I have the honour to be with great
respect Sir, your most obedient
and humble servant.

By order, Abraham Tenbrook Prest.

Honorable John Hancock Esq.

Kingston. Ulster County 1st March 1777

Sir. The enclosed letters and resolutions were prepared some time since but for reasons with which you need not be troubled were delayed. Some late proceedings of the disaffected within this State occasions their now being now transmitted.

I am directed to inform you that the Convention are engaged in establishing a firm and permanent system of Government. When this important business is accomplished they will dispatch a satisfactory state of their boundaries and the principles on which they are founded for the information of Congress. In the mean time they depend upon the justice of your honorable House re adopting every wise and salutary expedient to suppress the mischiefs which must ensue both to this State and the general confederacy from the unjust and pernicious project of such of the inhabitants of Newyork as merely from selfish and interested motives have fomented this dangerous insurrection.

The Congress may be assured that the spirit of disaffection notwithstanding all the arts and violence of the seducers is by no means general. The County of Gloucester and a very great part of

Cumberland

256168

Cumberland and Charlotte Counties continue steadfast in their allegiance to this Government. Brigadier General Bailey's letter, a copy of which is enclosed will be a sufficient proof of the temper of the people of Gloucester County. ~~&~~ Charlotte and Cumberland continue to be represented in convention and from every late information we learn that out of eighty members that were expected to have attended the mock convention of the deluded subjects of this State, twenty only attended.

We are informed by good authority that Colonel Warner was directed by the General to send forward his men as he should enlist them to Ticonderoga, notwithstanding which it appeared by a return from thence not long since that only twenty four privates had reached that post nor is there the least prospect of his raising a number of men which can be an object of publick concern, though instead of confining himself to the Green Mountains as we understand was the intention of the Honorable the Congress he has had the advantages of recruiting in Albany and other other places. I have the honour to be with great respect, Sir your most obedient & humble Servt.

By order. Abraham Yates Pres.t.

Honorable John Hancock Esq.

1 Paper
Sea Side
75

Extract of Governor Wentworths letter to Lieutenant Governor Colden of New York dated 10 febry 1770

I very sincerely joyn with you in regretting the unhappy state of that district under your Govern-ment as communicated to me in your letter of 20 Decemr (and) will with the greatest pleasure and most immediate readiness exert every influence of mine that can possibly avail the Kings service, or tend to promote a peaceable (and) wise subordination to the laws among any of his subjects. I shall there-fore assiduously embrace any useful opportunity to this purpose; altho' from my total unacquaintedness of the circumstances, that have attended this matter I dare not flatter myself with any prospect of much success in it, more especially as a people so far exasperated (and) deluded as to resist the due execution of the Laws, are seldom capable of being persuaded or reasoned into submission, un-less proceeding from an authority, that may strengthen (and) enforce attention. Whatever may be the ostensible claim of these people, they cannot have the least possible pretence to, or hope of any countenance or favor from the Province of New Hampshire, in any riotous illegal con-duct which is effectually detested here, that I have not known the least contumacy take place since my residence in the Province, whence it cannot but be expected that our public and private disapprobation will render vain (and) confound every unlawful view from hence. My particular testimony against all violence or victory disobedience is so fully known within the limits of my duty that I am at a loss by what means it can be more publickly testified, unless by the prudent dispositions of this Province

it has hitherto been effectually recognized here and I truly wish it may be as usefully adopted wherever it is wanting. permit me therefore to assure you, that I shall cheerfully embrace and zealously pursue every measure for the King's service, and that I cannot be more obliged than in your suggesting to me any expressly efficient aid that may be in my power thereto

I have the honor to be &c &c

Copy

Letter Governor Tryon of New York to Governor Wentworth of New Hampshire

Fort George New York 23. Decem 1771

Sir,

Having been favoured with your Letter of the 19th Octobr I lost no time in laying it before his Majestys Council of this Province, by whose advice I issued a proclamation setting the proceedings that have passed between our Governments, respecting the Lands lying in this Province to the westward of Connecticut River, a true copy of which Proclamation I have the honor to transmit to you; requesting of you, Sir see no objection, that it may be inserted in the public papers within your Government. The facts stated therein are taken from original letters and papers now in the Secretary Office of this Province. It was thought necessary to prevent the malicious insinuations of designing men from gaining credit among the deluded inhabitants in the western Counties of this Colony to express in the Proclamation your Excellencys disavowal and disapprobation of the rash conduct of those rioters, who so much disturb the peace of this Government, I still hope you will upon further reflection, make known by some public act within your Government, your dissatisfaction of such injurious reflections, and that you will consider such a step, rather as a compliance with my earnest request, than as an exterior condescension to a few wicked men -

The Commissioners appointed for running the partition Line, between this Government and the Province of Canada being prevented this season, from proceeding any further than two miles of the course, I am desirous of informing your Excellency as you may possibly consider your Province in some measure

effected thereby, that I have fixed upon the first day of March next, for the Commissioners to meet at the House of Col. Chrisley on the River Cole, about two leagues to the westward of Point Moore, from whence they are to proceed in compleating the extension of the Boundary between the two Governments agreeable to his Majestys instructions.

I am truly sensible of the politeness of Your sentiments towards me, and wish you may by an early visit to this City afford me an opportunity of renewing an acquaintance which was begun during your short stay in your Tour through North Carolina.

I am with much esteem

Sr

Your Excellencys

Most Obed Servant

Wm Tryon

P.S. Our Correspondence being of a public nature I shall communicate the same to his Majestys Secretary of State for American affairs.

His Excellency John Wentworth Esqr Governor &c &c

Extract of a Letter from Governor Carleton
To Governor Tryon of New York dated Nov.
19th Octr. 1771.

The information referred to in your Excellency's letter of 2d inst, although wholly different from the real fact is not unexpected to me having been often menaced by a number of people on Connecticut River, who have not only taken great pains to vilify (us) as peace one in that district, and by the most artful unjust solicitations to obtain equally injurious representations not hesitating to scatter threats of plans formed to remove me from his Majesty's service. These things I should have neglected in silence, but their attempts to convey such prejudicial insinuations to your Excellency justifies my explanation.

The Surveyor General of the northern District being in the course of duty stationed here for two years, and by the winters rigor precluded from surveying the sea Coast, formed a design of obtaining through his assistance a perfect and compleat survey of this Province, such interior surveys being recommended in his official instructions, Captain Holland very chearfully was disposed to employ himself and his party in this service, if he could be aided by three or four additional men to assist in the Survey, whereupon I recommended to the Assembly, but they refused to make any Provision for the expence, altho it could not amount to fifty Guineas, but as the advantage was so evidently great, (as) such an invaluable opportunity might never again happen to a[illegible] (us) with the
Pro[illegible]

2. Captain Hollands requisition was raised by subscription -

He undertook in person to survey the Eastern district, one Deputy, Mr Grant be sent to Connecticut River and one Deputy through the middle of the Province - in the Spring each party made return to Captain Holland, & thus wrote the intermediate parts of those divisions are to be perfected & a general map composed

These Gentlemen being strangers the people of the Country naturally jealous of every thing they dont understand, and the whole survey depending upon voluntary assistance, I wrote to some Gentlemen in this Province a circular letter for each party, to secure proper reception and assistance for them, which letter in many instances saved them from much distress & difficulty

Whether Mr Grant, Mr Whiting had no sort of power or direction but merely as one hand hired pursued an easterly branch of Connecticut River instead of a northerly Branch; or which of the two is properly the main river I know not. but am inclined to think so skillful an officer under the strictest injunctions of ours from his principal and subject to his penetrating examination could not well be mistaken in such a material point as this, yet if it is the error is so much injurious to New Hampshire.

The illtimed parsimony of the late assembly refused so useful & necessary a grant although requisite to carry into effect a Royal Instruction I confess it gave me pain, Yet I could by no means solicit aid from the Government of New York towards surveying Connecticut River, which by his Majestys

5. species of outrage or illegality; and that all pretences of my favour are made by a few designing affected persons, merely to vilify me. Nor do they ever venture openly to avow this among the people in general, who universally know the contrary. Therefore any public act of mine cannot in the least undeceive them; but would be considered as an exterior condescension to two or three wicked men who have been for three years past disseminating the most mischievous measures in that remote Country.

Order in Council whereby the Western district was granted by this to that Province is established expressly to be in New Hampshire to its western Parts more especially as it is part of a Provincial survey which hath not been forwarded to His Majesty's Ministers of State, neither will it be, until next Spring, when the whole Province map is finished and must there obtain what credit its own truth may merit.

Whatever may be the consequences of the conduct held by those people, whom your Excellency is informed are exciting disturbances on the District formerly in this Province they cannot in any degree be ascribed to me, that my name has been used therein, I consider as an effort of those unworthy wretches who daily presume in that Country to calumniate me in the rudest and most indecent terms.

To preclude all possibility of mistake on my side, I have cautiously and unexceptionably avoided speaking to any man or men upon this dispute, unless in the presence of some other persons and have invariably recommended implicit obedience to the laws where his Majesty had been pleased to assign them, and upon all occasions positively disavowed any connection with them or even a desire for them reverting to this Province. But at all times told them that I have met with occasionally that submission was their duty & interest. Upon your Excellency's accession to the Government I was still more explicit and earnest in public and private recommending those unhappy complaining people to refer themselves and their cause to your decision, and in abiding thereby. I was confident

they would have justice, neither might they expect me, to reconsider or alter what might be the determination of that Country should ever be reannexed to this Province, an event which could not be expected Considering the great disparity in interest, wealth diligence and abilities which I grieve to acknowledge is manifestly against New Hampshire.

Hence it is my wish to hear that every outrage (and) violence committed under any pretence whatever may meet the severest censure of law which I shall see without concern, but on the contrary rejoice in, as the avenge of those groundless aspersions, and still more culpable conduct practised by many towards me; in defiance of all law or rectitude whatever, and I entreat as a peculiar favour the greatest severity may fall on those who presume in any way to ascribe their conduct to me. The merits of the dispute are too tedious for me, to enter into at this time, suffice it to say that the whole arose upon representations and plans from New York in the year 1762, totally unsuspected (and) unknown to this Province containing many cruel reflections on the late Governor and Council; whereon New Hampshire suffered the loss unheard, altho' they labour under a Tax to the year 1774 incurred in the defence of this very land in obedience to a Royal Instruction specifying it to be part of this Province and enjoining a penalty of its loss to Massachusetts Bay upon neglecting to obey, an event further remarked by a dissolution of the Assembly who disproving the mode of defence rejected the recommendation which was acceded to by the next Assembly I am positively convinced that those people are to a man certain of my abhorrence of every

256:65

Copy

Royal Instruction relative to a
Provincial Survey
New Hampshire 3d Janry 1772

You shall likewise take care, that a general survey be made of all our said Province and of each County with the several plantations and Fortifications on it and that an exact map or Maps thereof be transmitted to our Commissioners for Trade and Plantations

Copy

J Wentworth

Petition of James Breckenridge Esq 1770

75

Province of New Hampshire } To his Excellency John Wentworth Esq Governor in Chief in & over said Province: The Honorable the Council & House of Representatives in General Assembly convened

The Humble Petition of James Breakenridge of Bunnington in the Provinces of New York Gentleman, or agent for fifteen hundred Families settled upon the Lands granted by the late Gov.r Benning Wentworth Esq. as lying within the Provinces of New Hampshire; Sheweth, that. Your Petitioner constituent being dissatisfied with the claim of Jurisdiction by the Government of New York over them concerning that, as they were Settled under the Government of New Hampshire, they ought also to be within the Jurisdiction thereof— Whereupon they appointed Your Petitioner their agent, with Power of Substitution, to go to England and prefer a Petition to his Majesty in their behalf representing their case and praying that they might be restored to the Jurisdiction of the Province of New Hampshire. In consequence of which appointment, Your Petitioner went to England the last Year, and there substituted the Hon.d Paul Wentworth of London Esq.r Agent for said Constituents to prefer & solicit such Petition before his Majesty; Which worthy Gentlemen was strongly recommended to Your Petitioner as a well qualified to execute their important trust— Your Petitioner when in England and since, hath had great encouragement to think that the prayer of the Above Petition will be graciously granted—

But as the Above will undoubtedly be strenuously opposed by the Government of New York. Your

Petitioner humbly conceives that the concurrence and aid of the Province of New Hampshire in said Petition would greatly promote and Facilitate the success thereof and add great weight thereto and would show, that this Government is not unconcerned in a Matter, the consequences of which can so interesting and important to the Government and your Petitioners constituents

Wherefore your Petitioner humbly prays that your Excellency & Honors would concur with him as agent aforesaid in the said Petition and appoint the said Paul Wentworth in behalf of this Government to prefer & pursue the same Petition and that you would assist your Petitioner in pursuing the same in any other way that may be thought most expedient

James Breakenridge

Portsmouth December
13th 1773 — Province of New Hampshire
In Council Jan 13. 1774 Read and ordered to
be sent down to the Hon. Assembly
— Geo. King D. Sec.

Province of New Hampshire

In the House of Representatives Feby 12th
1774 Upon hearing and considering Mr James Breakenridge's Petition in behalf of himself and others, praying that the Government would concur with him & his associates in the appointment of the Hon. Paul Wentworth of London Esq. as agent to prefer and prosecute a Petition before his Majesty in Council for the restoration of the Jurisdiction of the Lands heretofore granted by the late Governor Benning Wentworth Esq on the Western side of Connecticut River to the Government of New Hampshire Voted, That the said Paul Wentworth Esq be & hereby is appointed agent in behalf of this Government —

Government for that purpose to use all advisable Means & Measures to obtain his Majesty's order on the same Petition to restore the same Lands to the jurisdiction of this Government. Provided the said Paul Wentworth Esqr be furnished with Money from said Breakenridge & Associates for prosecuting the same and without any cost or charge to this Province

J. Wentworth Speaker

In Council eod Die

Read & Concurred — Geo King D. Sec.

Consented

J. Wentworth

256:6

Copy

Proclamation of the Governor of the pretended State of Vermont

256:68

27 October 1781

By his Excellency Thomas Chittenden Esquire Captain Generel Governor & Commander in Chief in & over the State of Vermont

A Proclamation

It having pleased the Supreme Governor of the Universe in the course of his holy & righteous providence to give us his people reason to rejoice & give thanks in the midst of his heavy judgments with which we are justly afflicted, we are under the strongest obligations to devote our lives to his Glory & with due acknowledgements to render praise to his name.

I have therefore thought fit by & with the advice of the Council & at the request of the General Assembly of this State to appoint & I do hereby appoint Thursday the sixth day of December next to be observed & kept as a day of public thanksgiving and praise to Almighty God; and I do hereby call upon & strictly require all persons residing within this State, of every denomination carefully to observe & keep said day, that we may with united hearts & voices gratefully acknowledge the beneficence & goodness of Jehovah in the repeated tokens of his mercy towards us. That he has preserved so many of our lives the year past and been graciously pleased to defend our frontier settlements in the midst of a calamitous war, & in so singular a manner granted success to the American Arms and their allies

in every part both by sea & land. That he hath been pleased to direct our Councils and bless the administration of civil Government in this State, & prospered so much unity and peace amongst us; That he has blest so many of us with health & safety in our dwellings. That notwithstanding our sinful provocations we are yet favoured with a preached gospel which manifests that he is yet wanting to be gracious unto us; That he has smiled upon & blessed the labours of our hands & gave us so plentiful a season & plentiful Harvests. That he has filled our hearts with joy & gladness & crowned the year with his loving kindness and tender mercies.

At the same time humbly implore the Divine favour, that God in his mercy would continue those Blessings we enjoy and in his own time avert his heavy judgements & grant peace to thy land; That he would turn us from our evil ways & cause pure & undefiled religion to revive & flourish throughout this land the Gospel run & be glorified. That he would raise up & send faithful labourers into his harvest that the many destitute Congregations may be supplied with faithful Ministers of Jesus Christ That in due time the just cause of thy State may be fully acknowledged when our enemies shall be confounded when iniquity shall hide its head, & all nations be at peace & the whole earth filled with his glory.

And all servile labour is forbidden on said day. Given under my

hand in Council at Charlestown this
twenty seventh day in the fifth year of
our independence Anno Domini One
thousand seven hundred and eighty one

Thos. Chittenden

God save the People

A true Copy attest

Thos Tucker

256:69

Copy

256:70

Letter Thomas Chittenden Esquire To
Colonel Ira Allen

Arlington December 15, 1781.

Sir

I have consulted a number of the members of my Council on the controversy between this & the state of New Hampshire respecting the Boundary lines between the two States whereupon I do hereby appoint and authorise you to repair to the General Court of New Hampshire & there use your influence that they comply with the proposals of the Legislature of this State, for an amicable settlement thereby if possible to prevent the effusion of human blood as the appearance of civil war will but too much give countenance to the Common Enemy of these States -

Thos Chittenden

To Colonel Ira Allen

Copy

Sundry Articles to be complied with by the legisla- 256: 71
ture of New Hampshire. See Doc. 15: 1781
without date

1st That the Legislature of New Hampshire sparedly support their claim to the Grants west of the River Connecticut (And) exercise jurisdiction over them when they shall ajustly therefor -

2dly That the inhabitants of the Territory east of Connecticut River, who have heretofore been in union with Vermont, have secured to them the privileges that the rest of the subjects of New Hampshire enjoy

3dly That the Legislature pass an act indemnifying all persons in the union aforesaid who have acted under the authority of Vermont so far as they have conducted consistent with the common Law or the Statute Laws of said Vermont

4thly " That the Legislature of New Hampshire ratify (and) confirm all proceedings of any Courts which have been constituted under the authority of Vermont, that shall be found not repugnant to Common Law or the Statute Laws under which they acted -

5thly " That all actions or processes commenced in the Territory aforesaid under the authority of Vermont aforesaid be transferred to Courts under the jurisdiction of New Hampshire without cost to the parties in the same situation they were in before the dissolution of the Union aforesaid -

6th " That equitable allowances be made by New Hampshire for the expenditures of men (and) money raised on said Grants east of the River aforesaid for the defence of the northern frontiers as well as the general cause of the United States.

7th That the Towns on said grants east of the

River aforesaid referred to in a resolution of
Congress of the 20th of September 1779 be excluded
from Governmental Taxes heretofore assessed
9th That the act of the Legislature of New
Hampshire for transporting persones from one County
to another be repealed_
10th That all Towns and Districts on the
grants east of said river be called upon to elect and
send representatives to the General Court of New
Hampshire and also members to attend the conven-
tion to form a plan of Government and that the
appointment of all officers in the Counties of Cheshire
and Grafton be suspended until said Towns are
represented in the assembly
11th That all deeds and Conveyances of land authen-
ticated according to the laws of Vermont be held
valid until reasonable opportunity be had for there
being recorded in the County registers agreeable
to the laws of New Hampshire_
12th That the procedures of the several Towns
in said district in their Town meetings during
the time while they held themselves not subject to
the jurisdiction of New Hampshire be held valid
so far as they have proceeded agreeable to the laws
of Vermont or the usages of New Hampshire or
as the exigencies of that frontier have rendered
necessary for the security of the people against
the invasions of the common enemy, and that
all the collectors of Taxes in the several Towns
be empowered to complete the collection of monies
due on Bills now in their hands unless when a
land Tax shall have been assessed for defraying
other charges then those of the war_
13thly That any Towns that have been overrated
in assessments for taxes by the Assembly

shall be equitably relieved

256:72

11th That such districts which by the laws or wages of Vermont have been entitled to Town privileges shall be continued in the enjoyment of them.

15th That a military force be stationed on the Northern Frontiers sufficient to secure the inhabitants against the invasions of the Enemy

Letter from Vermont
In Council of Safety State of Vermont
Manchester 11 July 1777

25b:75

Gentlemen,

The enclosed is a copy of General St Clairs letter to the Convention of this State, by which you will learn his reguest to the militia of your State, no further amounts have arrived since the date of the enclosed except that there are small scouting parties foraging in the woods. You will learn the provision General Schuyler has made for the protection of this State, & you will naturally understand that when we cease to be a frontier, your State must take it, would beg your advice & assistance for the good of the whole.

I have the honor to be Gentlemen with respect
Your most obedient & very humble Servt
By order of the Council
Ira Allen Secretary

N.B. News has this moment came to hand that General Howe with his army have got up North River as far as Toppan near the Highlands & that the inhabitants are moving out of Albany. We hear General Washington is with his army in high spirits watching the motions of the enemy.

I. Allen.

The Honorable Committee of Safety
New Hampshire State

Letter from Vermont
In Council of Safety Bennington
16 Aug. 1777

256:76

Gentlemen,

Brigadier General Starks from the State of New Hampshire with his Brigade together with the militia (And) companies of Rangers raised by the State with part of Colonel Symonds regiment of the militia are now in action with a numbr of the enemy's troops assembled near this place, which has been for some time so very severe, we have now in possession (taken from them this day) four brass field pieces Ordnance stores &c

And this moment four or five hundred prisoners have arrived, we have taken the ground although fortified by entrenchments &c, but after being drove about one mile (And) the Enemy being reinforced made a second stand (And) still continue the action, but the numbers cannot ascertain -

You are therefore in the most pressing terms requested by General Starks (And) this Council to forward the whole of the militia under your several Commands to this place without one minutes loss of time, they will proceed on horseback with all the ammunition that can be provided Conveniently on our present exertion depends the fate of Thousands -

I am Gentlemen
Your most obedient humble Servant
Jonas Gray Vice President

To the Gentlemen Nearest
Commanding Regiments in the States

Copy of a Letter from the State of Vermont to Col. Marsh

256.77

State of Vermont } In Council of Safety

Bennington Augt. 13th 1777

Dear Col,

By express this day received from the Commanding Officer of the northern department we learn that a door has now opened for the hopes of this State to do duty on this side the north River which will be clear from Gen Schuylers command and as an expedition is on foot of the greatest importance which is to remain a secret till the troops are collected these are therefore in the most positive terms to require you without a moments loss of time to march one half of the Regiments under your command to this place — no small excuse at this juncture can be received —

Whilst I am writing this we are informed by express that a large Body of the enemy's Troops were discovered two hours ago in St, Koik 12 miles from this place and another body at Cambridge about 18 miles from this that they march boldly in the Road and there will doubtless be an attact at or near this place within 24 hours we have the assistance of Majr, Gen Stark with his Brigade you will hurry Rangers forward are recruited with all speed now is the time, &c.

I am Sir your humble Servt. —

Sir, I desire you would by order of Council send this express to Gen, Baley —

Peter Olcott, Col —

Col. Marsh, —

(A Copy)

To Majr Israel Smith.

Jonas Fay, Jr. President

Copy of a letter from Cole Seth Warner
to the convention of Vermont 9th July 1777

(Copy)

Rutland the 2d of July 1777

To the honorable convention now sitting
at Windsor in the State of Vermont.

Gentlemen

I have last evening received an express from the general commanding at Ticonderoga who informs me the enemy have come up with seventeen or eighteen gun boats, two large ships, several sloops and other craft, and lie at the three mile point, and the general expects an attack every hour — the enemy have put to land on said point, and they have had a skirmish but the general informs me to his great surprise — Orders me to send for the militia to join him as soon as possibly they can get there, from this State, and the Massachusetts and new Hampshire. I have sent an express to Colo Simons, event of last night. Colo Robinson and Colo Williams, is now at Hubbardton, waiting to be joined by Colo Bellows who is now with me. When the whole join they will make in number about 4 or 500 Men.
I know not where to apply but to you to raise the militia on the east side of the mountain, shall expect that you send on all the men that can possibly be raised and that you will do what lies in your power to supply the troops at Ticonderoga with beef, as, if the siege should be long they will absolutely be in want of meat kind except the country exert themselves; if 40 or 50 head of cattle could be brought on with the militia they will be paid for by the commissary on their arrival. The safety of that post consists so much in the exertions of the country. those times are so much in want of men & should be glad that a few hills of corn raised should not be a motive sufficient to detain men at home considering the loss of such an important post can hardly 348

hardly be recovered.

I am gentlemen in the greatest respect your most obedient and very humble servant.

Seth Warner

P.S. I am this moment agoing to mount my horse in company with Colo Bellows for Ticonderoga, I left Colo Robinson at Hubbarton this morning — — — — — —

That you may have wisdom to conduct in the business for which you are called together is the prayer of

Seth Warner.

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From the convention of Vermont to the Council of war at Exeter.

256:79

State of Vermont In general Convention, Windsor 3 July 1777

Gentlemen -

This house enclose to you a copy of a letter just received from Colo Warner by which your honor will learn the situation of army in the northern department at that time. You will observe by that, that we have no knowledge that any express has been sent you ——

Therefore as the matter nearly concerns the liberties of the United States in general this house flatter themselves that their forwarding this intelligence may not prove unagreeable —

The militia from this State are principally with the officer commanding the continental army at Ticonderoga, the remainder on their march for relief of that distressed post.

It appears to this house from the various information from thence, and the personal acquaintance of many of the members thereof of the particular circumstances which attend our friends there at this present time that every prudent step ought to be immediately taken for their relief -

Your honors wisdom will doubtless be sufficient for your conduct, Wishing a lasting peace and friendship, we have the honor to be, Gentlemen with sincere ~~—~~ sentiments of respect.

your most humble servants.

By order of convention — Joseph Bowker President

214

Mr Secretary Allens certificate 15th July

In Council of Safety State of Vermont Manchester 15th July 1777. 256:80

To all militia officers whom it may concern

This is the second and perhaps the last express we may be able to send you from this post. Your immediate assistance is absolutely necessary, a few hundred militia troops to be joined to our present strength would greatly add to present encouragement — as by very late information we learn that a large scout of the enemy are disposed to take a tour to this post, the inhabitants with their families cannot be quieted without an assurance of the arrival of troops directly for their assistance, you will please to let us know your determination without delay.

The Continental store at Bennington seems to be their present aim — you will be supplied with provision here on your arrival, pray send all the troops you can possibly raise, we can repulse them if we have assistance.

I have the honor to be your most obed't humble Servant.

By order of Council

Ira Allen Secry

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Copy of orders to General Stark

256:81

State of New Hampshire July 19th 1777

To Brigr Genl John Stark

You are hereby requested to repair to Charlestown No 4 so as to be there by Thursday next to meet and confer with persons appointed by the convention of the State of Vermont relative to the route of the troops under your command, their being supplied with provisions and future operations — and when the troops are collected at No 4 you are to take the command of them and march into the State of Vermont and there act in conjunction with the troops of that State or any other of the States, or of the United States or separately as it shall appear expedient to you for the protection of the people or the annoyance of the enemy and from time to time as occasion shall require send intelligence to the General Assembly or Committee of safety of your operations and the manoeuvres of the enemy

M Weare

Copy

162

New York July 21 - 1779 Letter from commit of safety to the President of New Hampshire. 250:82

State of New York Kingston July 22 - 1779

Sir

The Council of safety has directed me to transmit to you the enclosed extracts of a letter from major General Schuyler — The condition of the northern department has become alarming and critical. The evacuation of Ticonderoga was a very unexpected event, and has been attended with an unhappy influence on our affairs — The people are disgusted, disappointed and alarmed —

The Council are constrained to observe that it is not in their power to afford General Schuyler much aid five counties of this state are in possession of the enemy — three others are disunited by malecontents who meditate a revolt and are attempting to avail themselves of the present troubles to advance their interested purposes — insomuch that all order and government has ceased among them — Of the remaining six counties a third part of the militia of three of them, namely Orange, Ulster, and Dutchess has been in actual service ever since may last and are yet in the field; Westchester has been so harrassed by the incursions of the enemy from New York, that during the last winter and almost ever since, their militia have been obliged to provide for their own defence — A third part of the County of Tryon are ordered are ordered to embody without delay, and a considerable proportion of Albany are already marched or marching to the field add to this the number of Inhabitants constantly employed on the communications, on transportations &c &c, and the still greater number, who tempted by prospects of ease or profits have quitted this invaded State, and sought inglorious quiet among our more peaceful neighbours 302

and you sir will perceive how greatly our strength is exhausted — Heaven has blessed us with a plentiful harvest, and it deserves consideration, that other States besides this will be affected by the loss of it.

'Tis unnecessary to observe to you, Sir, that the destruction of this State will bring the horrors of war to the doors of many who now seem idle spectators of it.

We hope the State of New Hampshire will on this occasion exert herself in a manner becoming the character she hath hitherto sustained in the scale of American importance, and that New York will not be left unsupported in the day of trial —

I have the honor to be Sir

your most obedient humble servant

By order — Pierre Van Cortlandt Pres.t

To the President of the State of New Hampshire

Copy to the Council of safety of New York of augt 5th 1777

State of New Hampshire in Committee of safety —

Exeter August 5 — 1777 —

Sir

I had the honor of receiving yours of the 27th ulto this day by express; and am sensible that the evacuating Ticonderoga has occasioned the loss of all confidence in the general officers in that department — among the people, at least I know that is the case this way. Orders went out about ten days past for one quarter part of 12 regiment of the militia of this State (the whole consisting of 18 regiments only) under the command of brig.r Genl Stark to march into your state to join Col.o Warner in protecting the people there, and to oppose the progress of the enemy. This day I was informed by a letter from Genl Stark that he had sent off 700 men from no 4 in several detachments to Manchester to join Col.o Warner and was to march the next day (viz sunday last) with ~~three~~ 300 more

Copy from Schuyler to New York convention —

256:83

Extracts of a letter from the Honorable Major Genl. dated at Moses Creek two miles below Fort Edward July 24 — 1777 to the President of the council of safety for the state of New York —

Sir

It is with great pain, that I am under the disagreeable necessity of advising you that our affairs in this quarter daily put on a more gloomy aspect — It was evident that if we had not consented to suffer part of the militia to return to their habitations, in all probability should lose the whole. — It was therefore resolved in full council of general officers, that half should be permitted to leave us, provided the others would remain three weeks — These conditions were accepted by them, and one thousand forty six officers included of the militia of this state remained, but not above three hundred and of twelve of those from the county of Berkshire in the State of Massachusetts, and out of about five hundred from the county of Hampshire in the same State only twenty nine commissioned officers and thirty four privates are left, the remainder having unfortunately deserted — and out of one hundred from Connecticut, who had like those from Hampshire, first arrived here, very few if any remain; and part of that half which remained from this State, so that we have not now above thirteen hundred militia on the ground — I wish we had the most distant prospect to obtain one half of those above five or six days — Our continental force is between twenty seven and twenty eight hundred.

With this small body we have to encounter a much more numerous body of enemy, well appointed, flushed with success and daily increasing by the acquisition of tories. — should it be asked what line of conduct I mean to hold amidst the variety of difficulties and distresses, I would

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would answer to dispute every inch of ground with Genl Burgoyne, and retard his descent into the country as long as possible without the least hopes of being able to prevent it ultimately, unless I am reinforced from Genl Washington or by a respectable body of the militia — The former I am advised I am not to have, and whence to procure the latter I know not — I have written to the eastern States but do not expect timely succours from thence — I must therefore look up to you; but though I am under the fullest conviction that you will readily afford me every aid in your power, yet I fear it cannot be much — In this situation you will be pleased to permit me to observe [redacted] that the most immediate and pressing applications should be made by you to the eastern States / Connecticut in particular from which we have not had above one hundred / for a respectable body of militia, / that part of what militia may come from thence be also sent into Tryon county and part here, that the greatest number possible of the militia of this state be sent both ways and that it should in the strongest terms be recommended to gentlemen of easy fortunes to turn out — I may seem to labour under ideal apprehensions — I believe they are not so — They are founded on a reflection, that if Genl Burgoyne can penetrate to Albany, the force which is certainly coming by way of Oswego, will find no difficulty in reaching the Mohawk River, and that being arrived there, they will be joined not only by tories but by every person that finds himself capable of removing and wishes to make his peace with the enemy and by the whole body of the Six Nations. These forming a junction with Burgoyne at Albany, while General Howe keeps up the river, it will either put General Washington between two fires or drive him to the mercy of [redacted] into New England — These, sir, are my

my conjectures — I sincerely wish they may never be realized although I cannot think they are ill founded. 250:84

I have thus freely ventured to give my sentiments — I hope they will not be thought to arise from a principle which would disgrace a soldier — I assure they do not and I hope my countrymen will never have occasion to blush for me whatever may be the event of the campaign —

I am most respectfully &c —

These extracts are truely taken and have been compared by

John McKesson — Secretary to the Council of Safety — New York —

— 96

more for the same place and most of the remainder 256:85
as they come in or to follow 2d Compy. being stationed
on the height of land between No 2 and otter creek —
and one at No 4 to guard the stores there — it is
expected that general Stark's Brigades will consist
of at least 1500 men when get together which will
be in a very few days, and they are to continue in
service two months — We shall continue to exert
all our strength in the common cause — one
half the militia in the remaining 6 regiments
are drafted and stand ready to march at a minutes
warning to any place on the sea coast of New England
that may be attacked.

In behalf and by order of the committee, I
am, Sir, your very humble Servt

Pierre Van Cortland Esqr

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Letter to Delegates at Congress

Exeter Aug 15. 1778

256:86

Sir,

By order of the Council (and) Assembly of this State I am to inform you that the pretended State of Vermont not contented with the limits of the New Hampshire Grants (so called) on the west side of Connecticut river (parts of this State) have extended their pretended jurisdiction over the River and taken into Union (as they phrase it) sixteen Towns on the east side of Connecticut River part of this State and who can have no more pretense for their defection than any other Towns in the State the circumstances of which you are well acquainted with, and great pains is taking to persuade other Towns to follow their example. Inclosed I send you the copy of a letter from Mr. Estabrook who stiles himself Chairman of the Convention of Committees from several Towns &c. also the copy of a Resolve of the said nominal State of Vermont on which you will make your own comments. By the best information I have from that County about one nearly one half Third of the people in the defective towns are averse to the proceedings of the majority who threaten to confiscate their estates if they dont join with them, and I am very much afraid the affair will end in the shedding of Blood. Justices of the Peace have been appointed (and) sworn into office in those Towns under the pretended authority of Vermont (and) persons sent to represent them there. I must not omit to let you know that Colonel Bedel who has received great sums from Congress or their Generals under pretence of paying men for service they never did (as I am informed) by the influence of said money has occasioned a great share of the disorders in those Towns. I

am directed to desire you on receipt of this to advise with some of the members of Congress on this affair (and) proceed as you may judge expedient after advising as aforesaid to endeavour to obtain the aid of Congress, if you think they can with propriety take up the matter. Indeed unless Congress interfere (whose admonitions only I believe will be obeyed) I know not what consequences will follow, very probable the sword will decide it, as the minority in those Towns are claiming protection from this State, (and) they think themselves bound by every tie to afford it, (and) you know every condescending method that could be invented, has been offered them in the beginning of the session, and was rejected. I doubt not of your application & efforts in this matter, which if effectual will exceedingly serve the State (and) probably prevent numberless calamities to the people.

Hon Josiah Bartlett }
Jno Wentworth Esqr }

Letter from Woodbury Langdon Esqrue
Philadelphia Oct. 12 1779

Sir,

The reasons why I have not done myself the honour of writing you before are these, soon after my arrival here, I was taken very ill of a fever which confined me to my Bed a considerable time and since my recovery General Whipple has gone home who from his long residence and experience at Congress will be able to give you a more perfect account of the transactions here than can be expected from me.

Since my recovery I have attended Congress with the closest application and shall endeavour to exert myself if my health continues to the utmost of my abilities while here.

You will have received sundry resolutions relative to Vermont from the President of Congress a copy of the last of which I herein enclose, the others of the 24th September were passed while I was confined and I cannot say are altogether to my mind this business in my opinion is of the greatest consequence to New Hampshire and requires her most serious attention for many very weighty reasons, among which give me leave to mention the following that as the thirteen United States have declared themselves independent which they will beyond all doubt support and at the same time have reserved to each state its particular separate independence and sovereignty an as New Hampshire without Vermont will be very small and weak compared with her neighbouring States and it cannot be expected in the nature of things but that some day or other differences will arise between that State and her neighbours in which

cuse she will be under great disadvantages on
account of her weakness, it therefore is her in-
dispensable duty in the first setting out to en-
deavour by all proper means to be as much on
a footing with her neighbours as possible, of the
truth of this I am more (and) more convinced every
day, it will also give her greater weight in
the grand Councils of America (and) be an
amazing saving of Tax both which are objects
well worthy Consideration, the same reasons will
apply to Vermont against her being a seperate
State and in favour of her being connected with
New Hampshire, indeed there does not appear
to me the least probability that Vermont will
be allowed to be a seperate State and every step
that has been or may be taken by New Hampshire
to countenance it weakens her Claim far beyond
what many Gentlemen of New Hampshire have
any Conception of, and will be so construed in
deciding the dispute, therefore I wish most
heartily that New Hampshire (and) the inhabitants
of what is called the Grants or Vermont would
be for the interest of both lay aside every
thought of making the latter a separate State
and unite in their endeavours to be one State in
which case in my opinion they will succeed,
but if Vermont persists in endeavouring to be
a separate State (and) New Hampshire appears
to acquiesce they will very likely both be
disappointed (and) in all probability Vermont
will be adjudged to New York. I confess I
am anxiously concerned for the settlement
of this matter (and) when I declare that I
have no private interest in the trail of County
called Vermont and never expect to have it

I will I flatter myself be admitted that I can have no view separate from the true interest of New Hampshire when I endeavour to prevent the Grants from being loped off from New Hampshire of which without vigorous exertions there appears to be danger. The Delegates of New York Massachussetts Bay, and New Hampshire have most of them thought it best to recommend to their states a particular form of an act to answer the end of the resolutions referred to above, in order that there might be a similarity in the acts, the delegates from the two former States, have accordingly sent a form of an act to their respective States copy of which I have thought it my duty to enclose herein and the general Court will adopt it or not as they may think proper if it should be adopted it may be very necessary to add a clause making it of force provided New York and Massachussetts Bay pass similar acts otherwise not, as it is at present very uncertain what will be done by those States and I hope I shall be pardoned when I say that due will be taken in forming every part of the act that no disadvantage or embarassment may accrue to the State hereafter in consequence of it.

Yesterday was forwarded to you by express sundry resolutions of Congress respecting a supply of the Treasury the Letter accompanying them together with the enclosed of the 13th. September past sufficiently point out the necessity of the measure without my adding any thing on the subject; it gives me much pain that there appears to be a necessity for calling on the States for such large supplies and confess that I am not without my fears respecting the success of it, but you must see what will be the consequence of it

4. does not succeed, your delegates have been able to procure the proportion of Tax for New Hampshire to be much lower than what it has hitherto been but it must be remembered that when hereafter the proportions of the Taxes of each state shall be finally fixed agreeable to some former resolutions of Congress, if it shall then appear that New Hampshire or any other State has been deficient it will then be liable to make good such deficiency (due) on the other hand if any State has been overrated it will have credit for the same.

The peculiar situation of my family and the concerns renders it necessary for me to leave this place early in December to return home which I hope will not be taken amiss by the Court as they will remember it is agreeable to my engagement with them, it will always be the height of my ambition to render the State every possible service in my power. doubtless care will be taken that such persons are chosen to represent the State in Congress as are fully acquainted with the dispute relative to Vermont and to instruct them fully in that Business.

I am with all due respect
Your most obedient servant
Woodbury Langdon

Honble
Meshech Weare Esqre

Letter from General Bayley

Newbury 22. Novem 1780

256:89

Sir,

The season is such that the enemy is not likely to do any more mischief at present, We thought the soldiers had better be discharged and I suppose Major Shellcombs soldiers will be furloughed, therefore you need no issuing commissary here, but I should think if Major Childs or any other man should continue purchasing (which I should think advisable) that Colonel Charles Johnston should be appointed to receive, it will be doubtless necessary that at least two hundred men is sent here as soon as the first of february as then the snow and ice will be hard and fit for snow shoeing. I understand General Allen has made peace for Vermont State till that time, but as we dont own that State, we shall be then only but, if the United States (and) your State in particular do not take notice of such treasonable conduct we had better let the cause drop, if you had the jurisdiction of the whole grants which I am sure you could if you only desire it the country would be safe, but if you split at the river, you keep all in confusion (and) must still defend for your own safety (and) neither reap any benefit by taxes nor vacant land, which is very considerable while the matter hangs in suspense the enemy may take possession (they claim it by the Quebec Bill, as well as part of your State) then where is your State, for my part I am determined to fight for New Hampshire and the United States, as long as I am alive and have one Copper in my hands, but if our exertions are not greater and more effectual another Year

will end the dispute not in our favour the United States suffer themselves to be attacked front (and) rear, and on the flanks. did General Burgoyne get clear when that was the case with him, our Chariot is in the mire, praying to Hercules or Chance without putting too the shoulder with all our might will not do, this frontier is the only one for five hundred miles west remaining it is near the enemy it is of great importance to you as well as the other New England States, and the Cause in general, shall we for ever be on the defensive (and) yet not able to defend ourselves as it is impossible we should while Canada is in the hands of the enemy. Shall we not make an attempt on Canada, that Harbour for spoiler, theives and robbers. I must confess the Cause is sinking so fast in my view, I am willing (as I see no other remedy) to make the attempt if I run ten chances to one to die in the attempt. Sir I hope you will excuse my freedom, (and) give me leave to subscribe myself

Your Honours
most obedient Serv.
Jacob Bayley

Honble Meshech Weare Esqr

Letter from General Bayley

Newbury 6. Novem 1780

256:90

Sir,

I send enclosed an extract of a letter from Major Allen to Captain Safford which is very Alarming to me, I question whether either of the United States may proceed so far as that extract shews they have done, they confine the truce to this State as they call it, the threats they have made (and) many other concurring reasons inducing me to think the letters of importance (and) a negotiation mentioned in the abstract are no other but in consequence of previous proposals by General Allen, to the Governor of Canada in behalf of Vermont, I cannot expect any better of a number on that side of the Mountains, if they cannot have their will than to join the enemy and if they do it will be bad for you as well as us, immediate care ought to be taken, but the case is men will not believe till too late, I did give notice to you of the temper of that people and urged that you would insist at Congress for a determination whether Vermont was a State or not (And) that without delay, instead of that I am informed your Agent at Congress opposed the motion when put, therefore the dispute is not settled, and time given to the enemy to make the greatest offers to these people, all the force that can be spared from Canada is at Crown Point (and) Onion River, (and) though they have been for six weeks in that quarter and it has been in their power to distress the people

30 Octo 1780

on

on the grants west of the mountains yet no man killed or captivated nor a House burned but look on this side where people are opposed to the people on the west in their extravagances they burn Kill (and) captivate, (and) have been & now are watching to destroy this and other places on this River, also look at York state what devastations have they made even to Fort Miller, the Country is ransacked and burnt, is it not alarming; on our part we shall keep a good look out (and) are determined to oppose to the last, I do expect they will make another attack on this River, I wish you would give orders that the highest regiments in your State to us might be in readiness, while I am writing Lieut White came in from Onion River informs that a party of the enemy are still on Onion river your troops are well that are here and I am much pleased with your Officers.

I am Gentlemen

Your most obedient

humble Servant

Jacob Bayley

Honble Meshech Weare Esq

Extract of a letter from Major Allen dated at Otter Creek October 30. 1780 to Captain Safford at Bethel east of the mountains. 256:91

Dear Sir,

in Bayley's of 6 November

I received a letter from General Allen last Evening informing that the Enemy before he received a flag from the British troops at Crown Point with letters of importance from the Commander in Chief at Quebec - Major Carlton hath pledged his faith that all hostilities shall cease on his part during the negotiation and and he expects the same on our part, you are therefore carefully to observe the rules of war and give strict orders to your scouts and troops to govern themselves accordingly.

A copy of this letter you will forward to the troops stationed on your side of the mountains in this State, I shall inform you of every move necessary for you moving on this side of the mountains - if the Spirit of this letter was made known to the Inhabitants on your side the mountain it would be well. I am Dear Sir,

Yours &c.

Ebenezer Allen Major Commandant

Letter from General Bayley
Haverhill 9. feby 1780

256:92

Gentlemen,

Since I was apponted to wait on you I receved a letter from General Green by which I am desired to attend the quarter Masters Buseness in this district which buseness requires the closest attention until March, Mayn Hale will bear this as well as the Committee's Letter I wish I had time (and) a capacity to represent our affairs in a proper light this I can say the people for one hundred miles are exceedingly alarmed and that I think for good reasons, Tories from Canada have about One month ago been with the tory at Claremont brought letters which inform them Friend that Great preparations for a descent on this River this winter, the torys are lively (and) about ten days since stole the Town stock of ammunition from Hartford, the people at Upper Coos I am afraid will move off ~~before~~ by - we have raised One hundred (and) twenty men, and placed them near half way to Canada, and the lake to make ~~the proper~~ discovery - we expect the enemy either this moon or the next, so that if you should think best to send men to our assistance they will not be wanted after the 1st of April but the sooner they are sent the better -

I am Gentlemen
Your most Obedient humble Servt
Jacob Bayley

Honourable Committee of Safety
New Hampshire

Letter from General Stark

Saratoga 14. Decem 1781

256:9.

Dear Sir,

Notwithstanding my letters to you seem to be treated with silent contempt, yet when any thing intervenes wherein I think my County or the State of new Hampshire in a particular manner, deeply interested. I conceive it my duty apart from common politeneſs to inform you of it. such I deem the late riotous conduct of Vermont, in extending their pretended claims to the westward, and threatening to support it by a military force, and indeed those within the twenty mile line are actually in arms, in open defiance and violation of the rules of Congress, and are now actually opposing themselves to the troops raised by the State of New York, to put their Constitutional laws in execution. Two detachments one acting under the authority of Vermont, and the other officers owning allegiance to the State of New York, are now assembled at St Coick in opposition. For further particulars I beg leave to refer you to Captain Fogg who will have the honor of delivering this.

I have been favoured with a perusal of the proceedings of the Legislature of the Vermont State upon the subject of their being received into the union of the United States, and find that they have not only rejected the Resolutions of Congress, but in reality have disavowed their authority. And I further perceive that they in their great wisdom, have thought proper to appoint a Committee to determine whether New Hampshire shall exercise jurisdiction to connect

cut river or not. This procedure appears too weak. For men of sense to suppose that New Hampshire would ever consent to an indignity so flagrant, or an abuse so pointed as this seems to be, is what I own very much surprises me. however I hope and indeed have no doubt but that New Hampshire will be more politic than to take notice of this during insolence - what I mean by notice is, to think of treating with them upon this, or indeed any other subject, until Congress have come to a final determination with respect to these people.

I am Sir
Your most obedt & very humble Servt
John Stark

Hon'ble Meshech Weare Esqr

Letter from Colonel Enoch Hale
Charlestown Gaol Dec 12. 1781

256:94

Sir

I have to inform your Honour that I wait the pleasure of the Honble Committee of Safety who I trust will know my situation, Sir I have given bonds for the Liberty of the Yard, but could not give bonds to appear at an unknown Court. for the Honour of the State that sent me to this place, however I was prevented doing the Business that I was sent upon yet I found the people to be much disappointed when they see that I refused to recognize (Aus) said that it would immediately bring on a quarrel, and many said that they would never take up arms for the sake of jurisdiction, (Aus) could only wish to know the pleasure of Congress on the matters, which I think has been much kept from them by designing Persons. Sir even those that are leading in the insurrection were panic struck on hearing that two thousand men were on their march, but have since been much encouraged by hearing that the State of New Hampshire did not know what to do with them, Sir I think that now is the time to put that law into execution more especially the Sale Law, Sir the wisdom of the Honorable Committee is sufficient to direct them. I am Sir

With much respect

Your Honours

Most obedt humble Servt

Enoch Hale

Honble

Meshech Weare Esqr President

of New Hampshire

Extract of Letter from Sam Livermore Esqr
dated Philadelphia Decem 10. 1781

250.95

The State of New York have sent Congress a Resolution of theirs by way of protest against the proceedings of Congress, in the affair of Vermont, and as Vermont does not appear to comply with Congress in their Resolution of Augdst last, I expect the whole work will be to go over again.

President Wharlock is here, he professes to have nothing to do about the State of Vermont but to obtain something for the college. He also says he expected that Vermont would quit their Claim East of Connecticut river agreeable to the Resolution of Congress.

I am Dear Sir
Your friend & most obedient
humble Servant
Samuel Livermore

Honble President Weare

Letter from General Fellows

Walpole Novemr. 15. 1781

256:96

Honoured Sir,

Being prevented by bodily indisposition from doing myself the honour of waiting upon you with a verbal account of our unhappy situation in this part of the State, by reason of the claim of Vermont upon us, must do it, as well as I can by writing, that the authority of the State may take such effectual measures as they in their wisedom may judge the present exigency of affairs calls for. The enclosed declaration and other acts shews that the pretended officers of Vermont, notwithstanding any resolutions of the Congress of the United States mean to exercise their authority, east of Connecticut River, in all cases whatsoever in every place where their numbers render it safe so to do, and to prevent either Officers or people still adhering to Hampshire from the exercising of any act of Government or privilege according to the laws of said State - if these things are suffered by this State (as) the Government of Hampshire will set still (as) see her faithful adherents dragged to gaol, for supporting in an orderly way her jurisdiction over a Territory guaranteed by Congress, our case is pitiable. Vermont has levied a tax upon the lands on this, as well as the west side of the River, and mean to collect it where they have a majority - the consequence of which I much fear will be violent if not sanguinary measures - We wait with impatience for some measures taken by you to allay our fears, and quiet our minds, under our present prospects, - if the wisdom of the State should think it necessary to use more vigorous methods than they have

as yet done, (as no doubt they will, Tho' I mean not to dictate, yet I think it might be best for any officers sent to support Government here with their horses, to come from off the grants, as it would be more likely to settle us in peace, than the employing any among us, for this purpose, where we are so intermixed and nearly equally divided. I must further let your Honour know that if effectual methods were taken by the State to secure some of the Leaders of Revolt, which I doubt not might safely, if secretly and prudently attempted, be done in all probability matters, would rest quiet till the United States, could do something decisive, if they did not take a turn in our favour. Your Honour will make such use of what I have wrote you in confidence as the good of the whole State may call for, so as not to prejudice unnecessarily any against one who is with much sincerity

Your Honors most
Obedient and humble Servant
Benjn. Pellows

Honble President Weare

Letter from Samuel Livermore Esqr
Philadelphia Novemr 13. 1781

256.97

Dear Sir,

I received your friendly letter of the 30th ulto. It gave me pleasure (and) surprise to find how soon you got the good news of the taking of Lord Cornwallis I suppose my letters Newspapers &c coming to hand long after must have been like a last years Almanack, however they might help you to some particulars -

I am still in the dark about Vermont, and impatient to heer their determination about complying with the resolution of Congress. Their allowing you to hold the Supreme Court in the County of Cheshire in October, with other circumstances which I received in a letter from New Hampshire I thought looked like giving up the east of the River; but I see by the Newspapers they are demanding taxes of above fifty of our towns in the Counties of Cheshire (and) Grafton - and a flying rumour is here that they have chosen a Governr east of Connecticut River. No one here sent me your new plan of Government (and) I hear nothing about it whether it is received or not. In my last of Novemr 6th I dwelt pretty largely upon the subject of our being overrated in the general tax for the 82. which prevented my saying any thing upon the tax in General, For which reason give me leave to make a few observations here - In the first place it was thought necessary to raise the sum of 8 millions of dollars for the Year 1782 - Perhaps the large debt we are in and the interest we must annually pay might influence the minds of some to raise so heavy a tax. Others perhaps think it best to demand a large sum to gain a small one

And that there is more room for those that choose to be deficient, and to pay nothing when a redundancy is required. But to come nearer the point, can the United States pay 8 million? This question will be answered by another viz. Can New Hampshire pay her quota of it properly adjusted; not in hard money I suppose. Yet her utmost power has never been tried, perhaps she can do more than we imagine. I allow her proportion rightly adjusted is 300,000 dollars that is, 5000 yoke of oxen at 60 dollars a yoke. We can pay that. May we can make the oxen pay it, and not pay a shilling out ourselves. This would be financiering with a witness. I suppose a Yoke of oxen to every three men which would no doubt amount to 5000 Yoke. But you will say it is silver and not oxen that is demanded, true; but the act required is to turn these oxen of N. Hampshire, the clothing, the flour, the forage the horses and waggons &c. &c., of the States into cash, or which is the same thing to receive them specifically for the public use. This we trust the great abilities of our Financiers to bring about. Yours &c. Sam Livermore

P.S. Let no one think that I consider oxen as the only source of wealth in N. H. far from it, I know we have horses and other stock, corn, wheat, Lumber, shipbuilding and other articles. My meaning is to shew that the tax may be drawn from a single source, much more than from the whole of our joint resources, if we have art enough to draw them forth. Perhaps I have overrated or underrated the number of oxen in the State, tis done by mere conjecture, still the thought may be improved by those who are better acquainted with the facts, my only view is to shew the possibility, nay the ease of discharging the tax, if my thoughts concur with yours upon the subject, or are of any kind of use, I shall think myself honoured and at the worst I have this consolation that they pay no postage

Yours as before S. L.

Letter from Samuel Livermore Esquire

Philadelphia Octobr 2d 1781

Dear Sir,

I am informed that a committee of our house and Council have proceeded to Connecticut River to treat with the People concerning their attachment to Vermont, or something to that effect. I did not hear the names of the committee. However I hope the measure will be attended with good consequences. That committee will doubtless be returned before this reaches you; I should be glad to be immediately informed of the result of their proceedings; as it may relate to the subject before Congress, and strongly influence their resolutions. It is probable the Committee of Vermont will be here before the last of octobr for a final decision of their affair. I am very anxious to get this matter settled and to return home, I shall presume the State will not be against my returning when this Business is finished. I long to see the County of Grafton active and our whole internal Policy settled;

I am Sir

Your most obed humble sert

Samuel Livermore

Hon'ble President Weare

Letter from sundry persons on the east Side of Connecticut River

September 21. 1781

At a meeting of sundry persons from ten of the Towns in the County of Cheshire on the New Hampshire grants east of Connecticut River at Keene the 21st of September 1781. viz. Keene, Swanzey, Richmond, Winchester, Chesterfield Westmorland, Walpole, Surry, Gilsom and Alstead, Benjamin Bellows Esqr in the Chair. after mature and deliberate Consideration of the disturbances and confusion which have arisen on account of the right of Jurisdiction over said Grants; it was very unanimously agreed by the persons convened as aforesaid that some person be appointed to wait on the Honourable Committee of Safety as soon as possible, and to lay before them the State of this County respecting the aforesaid dispute and in particular that those persons who adhere to the late unhappy union of the New Hampshire Grants are either ignorantly or wilfully blinded in regard to the construction they put upon the Resolves of the Honourable Congress of the 7th and 8th of august last, which serves in some Towns to Confirm some persons, who are for the Union in their former opinion, and some who were not fully established have (by some means or other since the said Resolve became public) Consented to the Union, and some who are attached to New Hampshire say the Congress have not determined whether we shall belong to Vermont or not, that the difficulties in this quarter are rather likely to be encreased then diminished by what is already

done to remove the same. It was also agreed that the Honourable Committee of Safety be requested (if they think proper) to send printed copies of the aforesaid Resolves to the several Towns upon the grants east of the Connecticut River at least to those in the County of Cheshire with their explanation advice &c. And that they acquaint Congress with the aforesaid premises if they shall think it advisable.

The above was unanimously voted

Voted That Captain Burt be empowered to wait upon the Committee of Safety with the above proceedings

Benjn Bellows Chairman

To the Honourable Committee of Safety at Exeter

Letter from Samuel Livermore Esq 256:100
Philadelphia August 21st 1781

Dear Sir,

A Committee of Vermont has here by an appointment in June to unite their State with the United States and to sit in Congress - They knew nothing of the resolution of the 7th August until their arrival in this City - after Sundry manoeuvres Congress informed them by a resolution yesterday Augt 20th, that it would be an indispensable preliminary to their independence and being admitted into the union that they relinquish all pretensions east of the West banks of Connecticut River &c.

The Committee will return home to consult their Constituents -

The enclosed paper will give good news. I am Sir

Your most obedient Servant
Sam Livermore

Hon President Weare

Letter from W Livingston

Philadelphia Aug 7 1781

256:101

Dear Sir

I am favoured with yours of the 23d of July - I am sorry to hear of the embarassment the State is under in regard to currency - tis what I expected. Silver & gold is plenty here. Flour bringes a good price & hard money at Savannah which fills both the Merchant & Husbandman with hard money - New Hampshire seems to have nothing to export consequently hard cash must be scarce -

We have been long disputing about Vermont nothing is decided - However the event will be, as I conjecture to make the grants east of the River independent - The main point now is how to quiet the remainder - Congress is vastly changed I was here in 1780 - and I have been told in Congress when insisting to have the grants wholly annexed to New Hampshire that I did not speak the wish or voice of my state - My business now is if possible to secure the grants east of the River - we shall proceed in the Business I suppose to day & tomorrow General Sullivan sets out for New Hampshire, by whom you will be more fully informed - If my business should end before November, as I hope it will, my wish is to be then relieved, it would be tedious for me to return the 8th January the time my appointment expires, & as tedious for the delegate that should be chosen to relieve me - I shall draw on you for £100 consistent with my Letter of the 24th July which gave you two months notice - General Sullivan will bring you

a set of Journals.

The weather has been very hot and altho' I have been healthy I have suffered much with the heat.

I should be glad of your sentiments on the subject of returning home in the fall, for altho' I most ardently long to leave this expensive sultry place I mean to be governed by the pleasure of the Court.

I am Dear Sir

your most obed humble sert

Sam Livermore

Hon: President Weare

Letter from Colonel Ellis

Keene August 7. 1781

256:102

Gentlemen,

I am informed that you have received some intelligence from General Sullivan respecting the New Hampshire Grants if it is any thing favourable to the friends of New Hampshire, I wish it may be published & sent to us by the next Post, for we are in a very distressing and dangerous situation, and need every possible encouragement & assistance to enable us to support the Rights of New Hampshire against the rapacious claims of Vermont. They have by a Resolve of their General Court appointed & authorised a Committee to take the Records of the Court of Common pleas in this County, & have ordered the Clerk to deliver them up for the use of what they call, the County of Washington. They have laid a tax of 10/ silver money upon every hundred acres of our land & are making hasty preparations to collect it. They Commissioned Judges for their County Court which is to be held at Keene the 14th day of August instant, and I suppose will proceed to do business under Vermont, unless prevented by New Hampshire. In this critical juncture I have to ask your advice & direction and hope you will bear us in mind & not forsake us in our distress. I am Gentlemen

with much respect

Your humble servant

Timothy Ellis

To the Committee of Safety

of New Hampshire

Letter from General Sullivan

Philadelphia Aug 7. 1781

256:103

Sir,

The affair of Vermont has been in agitation a long time, nothing is yet determined on but I am convinced the result will be a recognition of its independence, limiting it by the Western Bank of Connecticut River - a committee will be appointed to settle the terms upon which they may be received - a report of this kind is now on the Table and will be considered in two or three days - after it is determined I shall set out for home as I have formerly notified you - I am sorry to inform you that in order to pay off my arrears (Au) defray expences home, I shall be in want of a hundred pounds lawful money and not being able to sell a Bill at two months sight have been compelled to sell one at ten days sight - which should not have done, had it been possible to avoid it, If any difficulty should arise, I hope to be at home before the time of payment arrives - to prevent any injurious consequences -

I have the honor to be

very respectfully

your most obedient servant

Jno Sullivan

Honble Meshech Weare Esq

Letter from Jacob Bayley (and) others

256:104

Haverhill 27th July 1781

To the Honourable the Committee of Safety of the State of New Hampshire

Gentlemen,

Doubtless the State of Vermont is the subject of much conversation with you as well as in the other parts of the continent. but we are uncertain whether you have obtained some intelligence which we imagine of great importance. we take this opportunity to state a few facts for your consideration

The State of Vermont (as it is called) has settled a cartell with the enemy in Canada and the unjust basis upon which it is founded gives us reason to believe that no authority but that of Vermont was privy to the same.

This newmodled cartell according to the best information we can get, allows the British to receive a soldier for a Citizen. this being the case, the inhabitants on our frontiers are bargained to the enemy, at a very cheap rate and no doubt will be plundered, as it will be easier for the enemy to obtain their prisoners by plundering the inhabitants, than by getting our soldiers by the fate of war.

Since this Cartell was settled, a proclamation has been issued, whereby not only all prisoners in the country that have a mind to return to the British are encouraged to make the best of their way to Bennington, but that all those who have deserted into the country should to the utmost of their power be apprehended and conveyed there in order to be exchanged. many of the above are settled (and) have taken

up arms for the Country and are our fast friends but are carried off by force.

Two prisoners captured at Ticonderoga made their escape from the care of one Watson at Hartford (and) on their way from Boos to Canada were taken up (and) sent back. But when they got to Charlestown were stopt and carried to Pennington. And such prisoners (and) deserters as are amongst us are daily taken up and carried away. Hence it is not a hard matter to conceive how easy it is to get the biggest part of the convention troops into Canada.

Many of these Prisoners & deserters are well acquainted with this part of the Country, (and) will be fit instruments for the enemy to make use of to distress these Frontiers.

We could wish that Congress (and) the Commander in Chief might be immediately acquainted with these things (and) that some Seasonable measures may be taken to put an effectual stop to the same. For unless that should be done the game will soon be up with these frontiers and the enemy so much strengthened that the peace and we may the independence of the United States will be much endangered.

We cannot rest easy under these circumstances, the situation not only of this frontier, and the parts adjacent but of the State (and) Continent is so exceeding critical (and) dangerous, and the Continent in general so supine and regardless of these things we wish they

might be roused and alarmed and exert themselves lest a deadly enemy should be found 256:105
lurking in our bosoms_

Jacob Bayley
Charles Johnston
Moses Dow
Ezekiel Ladd
James Woodward

P.S. There has this instant come in since the writing the within six deserters from Canada who declare that there was a report in Canada that the inhabitants taken from Vermont are confined in Goal that were to be exchanged for Prisoners taken at the point of the sword_ and that said Inhabitants nobly scorned so base a proposal & said they would rather lay in Goal a year longer than to be exchanged on such a footing as it would open so wide a door for the plundering the Inhabitants of the Frontiers_ So noble a spirit ought to cause a blush on the assumed Authority of Vermont_

N.B. It would be agreeable that our names might not be exposed before necessity may require it_

Letter from Mr Livermore

Philadelphia 24 July 1781

256:106

Dear Sir

I received yours of the 9th instant enclosing the resolve of Court concerning our bills exchanging &c which I find require two months notice. In compliance with this resolve I now notify, that I shall draw for one hundred pounds lawful money to be paid in two months from the moment you receive this letter. This I take to be legal notice. So I must live on borrowing or nobody knows how, for I have not 40 dollars clear at this time. I shall use frugality and expect to render account; but I cant live here without considerable sums for clothing for myself and ~~family~~ servant which the State must advance, let it be towards my pay. I have a son with me not at the expence of the State. I am glad of the papers from Vermont. That dispute is in agitation, and I hope will soon be ended. York delegates not arrived. Your Commissions are sent forward.

Your most obedient Servant

Sam Livermore

Honourable President Weare

Letter from General Sullivan
Philadelphia July 10. 1781

256:107

Sir,

Mr. Livermore and myself were honoured with your Letter of the 20 June with the enclosures received by yesterday's post - which were immediately laid before Congress (&) referred to a Committee with directions to report as soon as possible when the report is brought in (&) considered we shall give you official information - I expect the result will be a prohibition to the pretended State of Vermont exercising any jurisdiction east of the River (&) an appointment of a day for proceeding upon the examination of the dispute - This will end in the appointment of a Committee to determine thereon - The reason why this has not been sooner done is because there has not been a Competent Congress since last fall until within a few weeks past - I am every day more and more convinced of the danger and impolicy of suffering the question of the independence of Vermont to come upon the tapis, for if it should be denied New York alone will receive the advantage for the reason mentioned in any former letter - But I apprehend that this would not be the case - I rather incline to think that the present members would make desperate struggles in favour of its independence - I scarcely dare trust my thoughts on paper, but be assured Sir, that the Policy of Vermont has induced them to make enormous grants to men of influence in several States (&) even to members of Congress - Mr Livermore (&) myself no doubt

will concur in the proper plan to avoid the
danger arising from this and other quarters.
The only plausible argument in favour of determin
ing the question of independence is, that this is
not simply a dispute between New York and
New Hampshire but between them and the people
claiming to be independent of both. The an
swer to this is simple and plain viz: that
New Hampshire and New York both by ancient
and modern determinations join upon each other,
of course no independent State can possibly exist between them and their claim
of independence can no more operate to alter
the mode of trial pointed out in the confeder
ation than if Massachusetts and New Hamp
shire both laid claim to the County of Essex
and the inhabitants were to declare themselves
independent of both. here the first step should
be to settle the dispute between the States, and
if it was determined to appertain to Massachusetts
no other question would be necessary. besides
if we admit for a moment the possibility of its
being independent we declare it out of the Union
and cast ourselves of any jurisdiction as we
have nothing to do with more than Thirteen
States, a fourteenth would have a right to deny
the jurisdiction of Congress which it seems
Vermont has already done - The safest ground
therefore for New Hampshire is to trust that
as there is no intermediate spot between New
York and New Hampshire and that as Congress
have included Vermont within the limits of the
Thirteen United States, it must belong to some
one of them, and therefore Congress ought to

determine to which agreeable to the rules laid down in the confederation.

I confess myself astonished at the proceedings of Vermont and more so at the conduct of the Inhabitants in our Counties I am unwilling to believe them influenced by the British but a variety of circumstances have almost confirmed me in this opinion. I suppose whatever can be done here will be done in a week or fortnight at farthest. The Commissioners will no doubt meet at Springfield or Hartford where the titles will be discussed and the right determined of course my attendance here will be no longer necessary on that account. I wish therefore that Mr Gilman may be directed to set out to relieve me immediately, as my domestic concerns will oblige me to set out perhaps before his arrival. Should the State call on me to argue the cause before the Commissioners I shall attend with pleasure.

I have the honour to be
with the most perfect esteem
Dear Sir
Your most obedient servant
Jno Sullivan

Honble Meshech Weare Esqr
President of
New Hampshire

Letter from Mr Livermore

Philadelphia May 22. 1781

Dear Sir,

On my arrival at Congress I found no delegate from New York, nor has any been here since, consequently no mention has been made of Vermont.

As to the business of the States I can with pleasure inform you that Congress are coming into a new plan of raising money and a more frugal plan of spending it. The general voice seems to be to emit no more paper - to call in what is emitted as fast as it can conveniently be done, to loan, to tax in hard money, to furnish the army with provision clothing, stores &c by contract &c &c. I dont mention these things as done, but as in contemplation - Continental debts to be liquidated in hard money, and put upon interest if agreeable to the creditor - As to our Southern army they have had a hard time of it, but they believe well. a Letter from General Greene of the 27th. April mentions an engagement of the 25th. wherein he took above 50 prisoners although it was a kind of drawn battle, this was near Camsden. a strong reinforcement of sea and land forces is expected from France - Upon the whole I think things look pretty well tho there must be the utmost exertion to keep up the spirit of raising men & supplies &c.

I have drawn the 14th. inst. for 133⅓ dollars being the only sum that offered and must continue to draw on the State but should be glad to hear the sense of the Court upon the subject -

Brigadier General Merrow Esqr.

taken a British fort at the Southward called
Fort Watson with 114 prisoners.

I am Dear Sir
with esteem your Honours
most obedient Sert
Samuel Livermore

Hon'ble President Reed —

Newbury Protestors &c &c on N. Hampt. Grants.

31 May 1762.

256:110

In pursuance of votes passed and instructions given by the town of Newbury, Moretown, Norwich and Hartford lying on the New Hampshire grants so called west of Connecticut river proposing to take some measures to be informed of the honorable Genl. Court of New Hampshire — whether a union of the territory aforesaid can be effected with the state of New Hampshire in consequence of their claim over the same on terms honorable and mutually beneficial and appointing committees from those several towns to meet at ~~that~~ Shelburne on order further to consult on the subject and gain information therein in such way and manner as may appear most advisable. —

The said committees being convened in consequence of the votes and instructions aforesaid after mature deliberation came to the following resolution.

Resolved that it evidently appears to the this with and desire of the inhabitants of the towns above mentioned as by their said votes and instructions is expressed — and also by good information it appears to be represented at this time — that the territory aforesaid or part thereof should be united with the State of New Hampshire and be under its jurisdiction provided it can be done on terms that may be honorable and mutually advantageous — and that we therefore think it our duty to enquire of the said general court of New Hampshire whether agreeable to their claim aforesaid the territory or grants above named or part thereof may on such terms be united with and become a part of that state — and that we imagine such an union might be formed to the general benefit, welfare and interest of the united Resolved that if the honorable general court of New Hampshire are disposed or desirous to extend jurisdiction over the territory aforesaid or a part thereof they

they the earnestly requested to signify their assent
hereto therefor to the several towns in their said claim
as soon as conveniently may be and also manifest
their ideas respecting judicial and other proceedings
under the authority of Vermont cases now pending in
court &c. now of a reasonable adjustment of these last
mentioned and other necessary matters can take place
We have full reason to believe and assert that the greater
part of the inhabitants in said territory would readily acknowl-
edge the authority of New Hampshire. expecting doubtless
at the same time that same direction or assistance will
be afforded in guarding the frontiers.

And whereas a negotiation or correspondence has been
evidently and from many circumstances are suspected is still
carrying on by persons in high office in Vermont with
the British officers and Government greatly prejudicial to
the cause of America and destructive of the final welfare of
this country whereby there is the utmost reason to fear and
believe that many persons who are disposed and doubtless
do harbour and give intelligence to our enemies cannot
be brought to public justice under our present situation
and other accumulated evils consequential thereto cannot
now be remedied. — — —

Therefore resolved that the court of New Hampshire be
requested to order a number of troops to the defence of the
frontiers — it being from many circumstances apparent that
unless relief and assistance be speedily afforded from some
quarter the situation of these frontiers will be truly deplorable.

Resolved that the following memorial be transmitted to
and laid before the Hon. Genl. Court of New Hampshire to-
gether with these resolutions — and that Elkel Towle Esquire
be appointed agent to wait on that Honorable Court with
the same — and that said agent be directed and empow-
ered to make or receive such further proposals agreeable

to the

to the tenor thereof as may then be judged beneficial and expedient.—

To the honorable general court of New Hampshire to be convened at Concord in and for said State on the second Tuesday in June next the committee aforesaid in the name and behalf of the towns above named beg leave to represent.—

That the grantees and occupants of the greater part of the lands in the territory aforesaid were possessed of titles from the governor of New Hampshire and in expectation of having continued under the jurisdiction of that government. That the people in said territory were very unexpectedly and disagreeably involved in difficulties and calamities by being annexed to New York by the royal edict in the year 1764 — out of which they ever were desirous and endeavoured to extricate themselves — but without success until after the memorable American revolution — when for their mutual benefit and protection against the efforts of internal and external foes they were impelled by necessity to form into a separate jurisdiction.

That necessity and necessity only induced the inhabitants of the towns above mentioned and many others to unite and to continue under the new government — Being unjustly deprived of that jurisdiction and protection from New Hampshire which they had a right to expect and enjoy. And while they have esteemed the Congress of the United States to be the guardian of the rights of a numerous and free people and have been ready to stand forth in defence of our unhappy disputes, but hitherto to no purpose. —

That while on the one hand we view with the keenest anxiety a negociation on foot with the British greatly to the detriment of the public cause and tending to our final ruin without a speedy remedy which we are not at present in capacity to obtain or oppose — on the other hands we view our rights violated in the most flagrant manner

manner and our liberties trampled upon by a number without rebuke or remorse - and therefore prays a number of men be raised or afforded for the defense of those frontiers we must view their situation to be indeed very distressed and unhappy.

That although we would not wish to involve ourselves under greater disadvantages to obtain relief from our present troubles - we think it our duty - nevertheless to enquire whether the jurisdiction of New Hampshire may not be as real as its claim - and whether the territory aforesaid may not be speedily united with and become a part of that state on such principles as may be honorable mutually beneficial and advantageous to the whole - Being persuaded that the said territory on account of its fertility & may greatly add to the wealth and resources of New Hampshire.

The committee aforesaid therefore beg that your honors would take the several matters therein before suggested into your wise consideration and rest assured you will pursue such measures thereupon as will eventually prove for the best good of New Hampshire and the territory aforesaid whose interest ought doubtless to be inseperable —

Signed by order and in behalf of the committee aforesaid this thirty-first day of May in the year of our Lord seventeen hundred and eighty two and in the sixth year of American Independence.

Bildad Andros Chairman —

Governor Clinton 4 Aug 1782

Poughkeepsie Aug.t 4. 1782 256:112

Sir

I have had the honor of receiving your Excellency's letter of the 2d July last with the resolve of your Assembly enclosed. The Legislature of this State were sitting at the time but it was near the close of their session and the midst of harvest and the anxiety of the members to return home so great as to prevent their entering upon any business but that which resulted from the communications made to them by the committee of Congress at whose special instance they were convened. The papers were however referred to committees of both houses and I have confidence will at their next meeting command the earliest attention; and from the prevailing disposition to cultivate harmony and friendship with our sister States that such measures will be adopted for effecting an amicable settlement of the controversy with respect to boundary between the two States as shall appear consistent with justice and the duty we owe to our constituents whose happiness it is our first wish to consult.

I shall embrace the earliest opportunity of communicating the result to your Excellency.

On taking into consideration the state of the nation the Senate and Assembly of this State came into several resolutions, on that subject, a copy of which at their request I have the honor to enclose your Excellency; and am with the highest respect and esteem.

Your Excellency's most obedient Servt

Geo Clinton

His Excellency

Meshech Weare Esqr

President of the State of New Hampshire

Mr Gilman's Letter relative to Vermont

256:113

Philadelphia Jan.y 16th 1783

Sir

Your favour of the 30th Ultimo (on the Subject of Vermont affairs) came to hand Yesterday — Am sorry to find that the Hon.ble the Legislature have not given any directions in that Matter — The Legislature of New York are now in session, & from some information which I have had this day, think it is probable they will be soon that their act by which the decision of this matter was submitted to Congress. If it should be proposed (in the present State of this matter, and without deciding on the Question of their Independance) that it be recommended to New York & New Hampshire to adjust this matter between themselves (reserving to Massachusetts the right of claiming a Trial upon the Principles of Confederation) and that Congress pledge themselves for carrying their agreement into effect. How ought we to vote on the Question?

For my part I feel Embarrassed by that part of the act of 1779. by which a special agent is appointed and other Instructions heretofore given on that Subject.

I have conversed freely with General Whipple on the subject at large, he has had opportunity to converse with others, and will give full Information —

Have no News to write

more than is in the Papers enclosed. —

I have the Honour to be Your most
Obt Servant.
John Taylor Gilman